

7/11/17...G.

C O P Y

M

September 19, 1910.

Mr. J. H. Somerndike,
Witherspoon Building,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

My dear Mr. Somerndike:-

Yours of September the fourteenth received and we are glad to get the information from you concerning Dr. Forbes and his trip to Alaska. It would be a pleasure for the Board of Home Missions to cooperate very cordially with your Board in Alaska as everywhere else. In the interest of economy and efficiency I think it would be well for the representatives of your Board and of this Board to come to some mutual understanding as to the places where Sunday schools should be started and how they should be handled, lest there should be either waste on the part of your Board or failure on the part of the Presbytery and this Board to improve the opportunities brought within our reach by the work of your missionary. I shall therefore, send your letter to Dr. Condit and I am confident that the whole matter will be so wisely and cordially handled by him that the plan of co-operation as finally determined upon will be acceptable to both Boards. When I hear from Dr. Condit I shall be glad to write you again.

With best wishes I am,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) John Dixon.

Extract from Dr. Dixon's letter to Dr. Condit, September 19, 1916.

"I am enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Somerndike, Superintendent of Missions of the Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work, and also a copy of my reply thereto. We shall be glad to hear from you at your convenience in regard to it.

I desire at this time simply to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of September the first enclosing your report and also the report of the Committee on Home Missions of Yukon Presbytery, with the copy of the Minutes. I shall be glad to write you later concerning these matters."

OCT 13 1916 *ack 10/13/16*

Board of Publication and S. S. Work
1319 WALNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA

See Reverse Side For Reply

REV. ALEXANDER HENRY, D. D. SECRETARY
J. M. SOMERNDIKE SUPT. S. S. MISSIONS

Presbyterian Sabbath School Missions

SYNOD OF WASHINGTON

REV. W. O. FORBES, D. D., SYNODICAL SUPERINTENDENT

1007 EAST MARION

SEATTLE, WASH.

Oct 7 16

*Rev John Dixon DD
New York City.*

My dear Dr. Dixon:-

*I am enclosing herewith
copy of my report on Survey of Alaska.
We are hoping for your approval
and cooperation in this undertaking
in case the Board of Publication
takes it up. In any event this
will let you see the field up there
through the eyes of a S.S. worker
and perhaps will interest your of-
fice force.*

*Yours Sincerely
W. O. Forbes*

M

October 25, 1916.

Rev. W. O. Forbes, D.D.,
1007 East Marion,
Seattle, Washington.

My dear Dr. Forbes:-

Thank you very heartily for your kindness in sending me a copy of your report to your Board as to a Sunday-school missionary for Alaska. I am sure that not only the Home Board but all of our ministers in Alaska will be glad to cooperate with the missionary appointed by the Board of Publication and Sabbath-school Work, should that Board in its judgment believe that the expenditure of the money named by you should bring adequate and permanent results. We are one with you.

And with best wishes I am,

Cordially yours,

M

COPY.

Anchorage, Alaska, Oct. 9, 1916.

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
New York.

My dear Doctor Dixon:

By boat now in harbor has come word from Dr. Condit relative to sending a Sunday School missionary into these parts. I am answering directly to your office as Dr. Condit has requested,

Permit me to say by way of introduction that any increase in the number of Christian workers in this country is much to be desired, but perhaps their location is a matter of concern. There is beyond a doubt room for a Sunday School missionary in Alaska but so far as locating him in the immediate vicinity mentioned is concerned there may be doubt. Anyway this is what I know of the situation.

1st as to Kennecott, McCarthy and Chitina. These are all stations on the Cooper River Railroad. During my stay in Cordova I organized schools and held services in both Chitina and McCarthy. I also held services in Kennecott and would have organized a school had there been any possibility of it. But it is to be remembered that copper was much depressed and that the population at the mine was exceedingly small. Cordova itself does not afford sufficient work to keep a man busy and to my way of looking at it, the Cordova man ought to handle that whole situation along the railroad line. In fact the Cordova field is considered to embrace these out stations.

2nd. La Touche and Ellamar. Both of these places are copper mines. La Touche is very flourishing with a number of children. What copper will do in a twelve month is hard to say. But at present a good school could be organized. Ellamar is enjoying prosperity. It has a number of natives. Both of these places can only be handled via sea-passage. They are unrelated to any field, - Valdez or Seward could handle La Touche, Valdez could handle Ellamar. These places are both worthy of consideration.

3rd. Kenai Peninsula. Kenai, Seldovia have about 200-300 inhabitants. Mostly members of Greek church. Practically impossible to reach these places unless man has his own boat, in the winter time.

Where would your man be stationed? There is a solution to the question of La Touche and Ellamar if the Boards would consider it. If I might lay it before you I would like to do so. But I cannot conscientiously, with what I know of population distance, travel, cost etc. recommend that a man be appointed to handle the grouping named in your communication to Dr. Condit. I certainly am of the opinion that the S.S. Board should have a man here in Alaska, However. But I do not care to suggest an arrangement unless asked to do so as I believe such a suggestion is outside my place.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) James L. McBride.

I.

October 13, 1916.

Rev. W. O. Forbes, D.D.,
1007 East Marion,
Seattle, Washington.

My dear Sir:-

Your letter of October the seventh, enclosing a copy of your report to the Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work in your recent survey of Alaska, has been received during Dr. Dixon's absence from the office in attendance upon meetings of Synods in the West. It will be placed on file for his consideration upon his return.

Respectfully yours,

For Dr. Dixon.

OCT 13 1916

To the Board of Publication
and Sunday School Work:

I herein submit my report on the Survey of Alaska, in which I will confine myself to facts that concern the object of my investigations, without burdening you with the romance and glamour that seems always to envelop everything Alaskan.

In accordance with your instructions, I made the journey for the sole purpose of discovering whether or not the Board should put a missionary in that field, and to ascertain and report the facts upon which such a conclusion could be intelligently based. In this endeavor it was only possible for me to visit Southeastern and Southwestern Alaska, i.e., just the Coast line as far West as Cooks Inlet, and as far North as Anchorage and the Matanuska Valley, along the line of the new Government Railroad. This I did quite thoroughly, getting into every one of the Coast towns of any importance, and searching out all the prospective mission points that was possible within the time limit - spending full eight weeks in the survey.

My observations on this journey have interested me greatly and have given me a new vision of the possibilities of all kinds of activities in this wonderful country. I suppose Alaska has never been exploited as it is this year. Frank Carpenter's letters and the stories of tourists, who have come and gone, have only added to the interest that business men have sought to create - and this, along with the Government activities, have really created a stampede to the Northland. It was thought that the year of the San Francisco Fair had marked the tourist high tide, but the steamship lines all declare that the travel has been even greater this year, and that many more people are going to stay this year than ever before. But even with all this, the demands for labor are not being met; for advertisements are now being displayed in all the big dailies in Seattle and elsewhere for laborers of a certain class - especially in the vicinity of Anchorage - for which they are offering special inducements.

I was surprised at the number of big business men that were going into Alaska, representing all kinds of business enterprises. Inspectors of steamboats and railroads and mines and fisheries; Surveyors to delve deeper into the secrets of the country; Prospectors claiming to have secrets that they would not divulge - all accompanied with big business men, making big investments and planning big business, seemed to vie with each other in grasping for the hidden treasures of our wonderland. Among others is Andrew Stevenson, formerly of Chicago, and always of the great company of International Sunday School Workers, who has recently established a line of banks in Alaska, with many of the biggest New York bankers back of him, with the parent bank at Skagway and branches now at Anchorage and Wrangell, and two others in prospect. The Harriman

interests also are in the field with two banks in the newly developing centers. These men are enthusiastic about the prospective development of Alaska and are laying foundations for reaping the rewards in the future.

The forms of development are along several lines. Railroads are building in several parts of Alaska. The Copper River Railroad, 200 miles long, from Cordova to Kennicott, where one of the richest copper mines in America is located - built by the Morgan Guggenheim interests, at a cost of \$20,000,000 but now taking out \$2,500,000 worth of ore, 70% pure, every month; the Tanana Mining railroad in the interior; the Oil Railway now being promoted from Katalla by Falcon Joslin, owner of the Tanana Mining Railway; the Katalla Coal road building into the famous Bering coal fields, by Clark Davis, who left the ministry in Seattle to go to Alaska to become a millionaire, and last of all, but not least the Government road, nearly 500 miles long when completed, from Seward to Fairbanks - all is only the beginning of the dreams for railroad development there. One man in Seattle is making his race for Congress just now on promising 3000 miles of Government railroads in Alaska in the next decade.

Then the mining interests, gold and copper and numerous less valuable metals. In the six months ending June 30 about \$5,000,000 in gold came from Alaska, while more than \$17,000,000 in copper came out in the same time. The fisheries are about the most important in the world and are engaging an army of men, and enriching hosts of business men or corporations. I need not mention the lesser interests, but in all, Alaska has yielded something like \$25,000,000 in exports in this same six months.

The prospects for agricultural interests is what will concern the prosperity of Alaska most perhaps, as the permanent population must depend largely upon that. That there is much good agricultural land has been demonstrated by Government Experiment Stations - enough to support a large population in due time. It is estimated that there are 4,000,000 acres of land that can be developed agriculturally in the Kenai Peninsula, Susitna and Matanuska Valleys, and that there is quite as much in the interior with Fairbanks as a general center. This is the country through which the new Government road is being built, and it is rapidly opening up to homesteaders. Some fine ranches are being developed near Seward and you can see from one of the pictures how one man is cultivating his. (See dog plowing) How many homesteaders there are on Kenai Peninsula I could not learn, but there is room for many. I went up the railroad from Anchorage as far as the road was completed North, and then on a three days' journey walked up the Matanuska Valley towards the Chickaloon coal fields, the objective of the Matanuska branch, within 20 miles of the great coal deposits, and I found many homesteads started. One business man said he had a list of 221 homesteaders trading with him, and from other sources I learned that there are over 400 in the Matanuska and Susitna Valleys, and the railroad has just barely begun building - only 50 miles out from Anchorage, 15 miles of which has been built

since I was there. (I am enclosing some pictures showing the type of homesteads.)

It looks to me like the population must rapidly grow. There are three or four lines of steamships, with a dozen or more well equipped boats altogether, carrying freight and passengers to the North - and every one is loaded. Many are tourists, but far the larger number of passengers going to the far North and to the interior of Alaska are going to ~~stay~~ stay. I couldn't get any definite, reliable information on the white population, but after talking with the Governor and missionaries and some business men, it is safe to say there are not less than forty thousand, possibly as many as sixty thousand, and some put it even higher. There are over 5,000 in Anchorage, with about 3500 others out on the railroad line. There is a labor union of 3500 members in Anchorage - and a year ago last May there was not a soul in the town - (see the cards noting the growth) now, of course, where the people are there is work to do.

This brings me to the question of what there is to do and what is being done to keep pace religiously with other great movements in Alaska.

I found at Anchorage one Protestant Church - the Presbyterian, not yet organized, but with a good working plant just being completed, and a good minister in charge. A "foot-loose" minister (Presbyterian) was on his way, and is now there to take up the work along the railroad, in the camps and in any possible new settlements. Also a Y.M.C.A. Secretary is located at Anchorage in the employ of the Government, who gives himself mostly to doing errands for the men, distributing literature and the like. There are several towns bound to spring up as business develops - the principal one, I think, on the Coast side will be at Talkeetna, up the Susitna River, which will be a divisional point on the road and a distributing point for several mining regions - especially Cache Creek and Wilson Creek mines. There will be a like development in the interior, where just now, the Government is putting the townsites of Nenana on the market, in preparation for the railroad developments in prospect.

With Seward, the principal town on the Kenai Peninsula, and the final terminus of the Government road and so, as I think, the most important town up there in the future, there are a number of small towns that are utterly destitute of the Gospel. They are Sunrise, Hope, Kenai City, Homer, Aurora, Seldovia, Port Graham and Kesilof. These towns range from 100 to 250 in population and would afford good opportunities for Sunday School work. All of them have small schools and usually teachers from the States. Seward where there is a demand for our work, has a little Methodist Church of five members with a little shack of a building - the only Protestant church organization in town (see picture of church) though the Episcopalians have a good unoccupied building.

At Latouche, a copper mining town between Seward and Valdez, there are 250 men employed, with 35 families, 30 children in the day school, with no religious services whatever, except Christian Science services each Sunday evening - nothing at all for the children. This is a Morgan-Guggenheim enterprise. And at Ellamar, farther down towards Valdez, another copper mining town, there are 200 people, 30 children in school and no religious service of any kind. Out from Cordova there are three towns, Chitina with 100 people; McCarthy with 500 people, and Kennicott with 300 working men and 35 families - all without religious services, except the Sunday School I helped to start at Kennicott on my trip, with the wife of the Superintendent of the mines at Kennicott and Latouche as Superintendent. Chichagot, 50 miles north of Sitka, is a gold mining town, with 250 men at work, 30 families, a day school of 25, but utterly destitute religiously. This mine was discovered by some Sitka Indians; held for them by an elder in our white church at Sitka, then sold for them to the company that now owns it. The mining engineer showed me a gold brick, the result of eleven days cleanup, just finished, that he said I might have if I would carry it away with me - worth \$36,500.00. I came away without it. This is an average he said, of a cleanup every 15 days. Down further, out from Ketchikan, is Sea Island mine with 40 men, Kaasan with 30 children and 100 people, Mt. Andrew with 40 labourers, Hadley with 75 men and 15 or 20 families, and several other places like these - all not only without Church or Sunday Schools, but with not even day schools.

All the principal towns have, at least, one Protestant Church, usually only one, but hardly one of these smaller places have any care whatever - probably because they do not promise to develop churches, but they are legitimate fields for Sunday School work. I found Methodist churches at Seward; very weak. At Skagway - 90% of whose membership and support is Presbyterian, at Juneau and Ketchikan also strong with Presbyterian support. The Congregationalists are at Valdez and Douglas. The Presbyterians are at Anchorage, Knik, Cordova, Juneau, Sitka, Wrangell and Haines with a dozen or more flourishing missions among the Indians, and a fine Industrial School at Sitka with ten fine buildings, property worth \$150,000, 18 teachers and 150 pupils - all on the Coast, with two fine churches with pastors in the interior, at Fairbanks and Ruby - while the Episcopalians have small churches of a social service order in some of these towns. They call them Red Dragons, intended to be rivals of the saloons and gambling houses, and a few regular churches, none of them strong.

I consulted with Dr. Condit of Juneau, Supt. of Home Mission in Alaska, with our pastors at Anchorage, Knik, Cordova, Juneau, Haines, Sitka and several of our Native Missions - also with Andrew Stevenson of Skagway - and all were deeply interested in the object of my visit, and did everything they could to make it a success. Two of the ministers have made application for the position of S. S. Missionary in case one is placed in the field.

It all looks to me like a great rich field ready for the harvest - and that the appointment of a Missionary would be the logical step for the Great Presbyterian Church to take in its efforts to meet the needs of these, our furthestmost and most neglected pioneers. It is true that the Christian Church has sent a missionary in since I came back, and that he may do this pioneering, but I think not, as his object is to establish churches and this he can only do where churches are already established, at Seward and Anchorage and other like places. There are scores of such places that I have described that will never have the gospel unless the S. S. Missionary takes it to them, as the present Home Missionaries can possibly reach but few of them in addition to their own work.

And yet this cannot be done in a small way. It will take a big man and involve a big expense. Dr. Condit's only hesitancy seemed to be the big expense in salary and travel. Andrew Stevenson enthusiastically urges it, not only as a supplement and help to our present missionary force, but as a necessary means of doing our part to scores and hundreds of isolated communities and homes and individuals. Mr. McBride, our Pastor at Anchorage - a live wire, wide awake and efficient, out from a pastorate in Chicago, where he built them a \$35,000 Church, and where they wanted him to stay - the Chairman of the Home Mission Committee in Yukon Presbytery, says: "By all means let us help these isolated places and vigilantly watch these newly developing towns bound to spring up in the new life that is surely coming to Alaska" I would not hesitate to recommend, without reservation, such an appointment if it did not involve an expense that might be more than the Board could afford. The missionaries in Yukon Presbytery get \$1700 and a manse, and a S. S. M., by all that is right, should have as much, certainly not less than \$1500. Then the travel is very expensive. I didn't find it so for myself after the initial cost, except for meals and hotel, for all the railroads and boat-lines up there treated me with Mrs. Forbes like guests on all the side trips, as they were all in accord with the object of our quest. But in my judgment, the Board would have to figure on not less than \$2500 to put a man in Alaska that would be a success, including his salary and expenses of travel and literature.

It is a big expense but it is a big opportunity - and big with possibilities. All other big enterprises are taking their chances and running their risks, and spending their thousands, perfectly sure it will all come back again - and so will ours - not in gold or copper or other hidden earthly treasure, but in precious souls, in good citizenship, and in the final, redemption of a great country which is so loudly calling now to the most adventurous spirit of the age, and to which the best blood of the land is so rapturously responding.

#6

I have omitted in all this the hundred and one little incidents of interest - the stories of big things and big expectations that give space to such a report, but you are business men that want facts and I've tried to sift the important facts and put them together in a readable way for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

October 28th, 1916

Rev. John Dixon, D. D.,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

My dear Dr. Dixon:

Replying to that portion of your letter of the 19th of September in which you request that I write you as to my thought as to the appointment of a Sunday School missionary for Alaska, as by the letter to you of Mr. Somerndike, would say, that in response to a letter from Mr. Somerndike I have written directly to him and enclose herewith a copy of my communication.

Trusting that this will be a satisfactory answer to your request of the above date, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

James H. Condit.

NOV 11 1916

Copy

October 28, 1911

Mr. J.M. Somerville, Capt.,
Itinerary Building,
Alaska Division.

Dear Mr. Somerville:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 6th inst., relative to the appointment of a traveling mission missionary for your district as recommended in Mr. Fox's report, a copy of which he has kindly furnished me. I have read the report with interest.

In my judgment there can be no question as to the desirability of such a missionary in Alaska. I only wish that there might be a number of them. Our own work has often had before it the plea of men on the field for itinerating missionaries to reach the isolated places and districts with too sparse a population to warrant placing missionaries for all of their time. The considerations which have prevented commissioning and sending missionaries thus far have been these:

First, the expense. I visited Anchorage last summer, as I had to at least once each year, being then engaged by most direct route and returning by the same. My expenses were in the neighborhood of \$100. I was in Anchorage most of the time while here and was the guest of the Anchorage Church, inasmuch as we were attending a meeting of the Synod of Alaska which was held there. A traveling missionary would be necessarily on the go during the entire year. It would be impossible to give him rates to visiters in Alaska with the exception of the Canadian route and the coast and these reach only the south-eastern portion of the territory. This section is the least in need of such a missionary as suggested. Total bills in all roadhouses and lodgings placed in comparison outside of the whole town are high. For example, along the line of the Copper River R.R., at Chitina, Bartley, etc., meals are 1 cent and lodging not less than 10c. In the interior of Alaska along the Fairbanks-Alaska trail meals range from 10c to 25c and lodging the same.

In view of this I should say that Mr. Fox's estimate of an allowance of \$2000 per year for such a missionary is conservative and probably under the mark.

Second, the difficulties of transportation. Alaska is a land of magnificent distances. The settlements are quite one from another. Only the important towns have regular steamboat connection. The winter roads, and even the coast route in this survey, must be reached by small boats running at intervals or by mail boats hired for the occasion, or owned by the missionary, as is the case in a number of our south-eastern Alaska sections. This applies to coast towns. The interior points may be reached in a few instances by railroads as along the line of the Copper River line or via the new government road. The sections can be reached only by dog-team. In the winter time in the interior the difficulty of the weather conditions make any land travel impracticable.

It is true that a man who has the physique and determination to go "hacking" over the trail can overcome the difficulties if he has the time, the money for expenses and the proper equipment. It is a matter of fact only the mail carriers and other men under necessity, brave the rigor of the Arctic winter in travel from camp to camp. The travel of the interior is done for the most part in the summer time when the rivers are open and boats available.

Another thing to be considered in this connection is the time required to go from place to place. To make the trip from Barrow to Chitina and return stopping at Benicott, Ikroavik, etc., for services, would take at least ten days or two weeks in that portion of the year when only two trains a week are running. This would be one of the most favorable itineraries because of the railroads. In quite another instance, a missionary desiring to reach the Katuvuk village, of which Mr. Forbes speaks, going from Barrow, the nearest point of coast, would need to allow at least three days in order to go and come, with one evening service, if the boats were most favorable. But as is often the case in winter he might and properly would require ten days or more to make the trip. Thus a large part of the time of any missionary working on the itinerating basis would necessarily be taken up with travel and waiting for boats.

A man engaging in this kind of work could not be at home, if married, but occasionally. Also, he could not make the rounds of any considerable territory with any prospect of more than monthly visits and in most instances it would be nearer the mark to count on quarterly visitation.

In so far as south-eastern Alaska is concerned I know of no communication of any size, where a Sunday school is possible, where there is not already one in existence under the auspices of one or other of the various denominations now supporting missions in this section.

I have presented the facts as I know them and as affecting our home mission work. I wish to repeat that the services of such men as I know some of our Sunday school missionaries to be would be of great spiritual value. The difficulties in the way are as suggested.

Very sincerely yours,

M

November 1, 1916.

Rev. Alexander Henry, D.D.,
Witherspoon Building,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

My dear Dr. Henry:-

I am enclosing a letter which I received from the Rev. James L. McBride, our missionary at Anchorage, Alaska. I have been absent from my office for a week and have not yet answered it, but in looking it over today I am wondering whether or not it was intended for you instead of for me. In any event, make such use of it as may seem to you best. And believe me to be,

Sincerely yours,

(Enclosure)

OCT 9 - 1916 *ack 10/9/16*

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

September 30, 1916

Dr. John Dixon, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

My dear Dr. Dixon:

Your letter of the 19th of September, with its enclosures of letter from Dr. Somerlike relative to the appointment of a Sunday School Missionary for Alaska, and your reply thereto, are at hand. I am referring the matter to the Chairman of the Home Mission Committee of Yukon Presbytery for reply, the Rev. James L. McBride of Ambrose, and would suggest that any action looking toward the appointment of such a S.S. missionary be deferred until reply is had from Mr. McBride, who is thoroughly conversant with the fields referred to, including the Koniag peninsula (not Kensi) and the Taitina-McCarthy-Tennicott territory as well as LeTouche and Ellamar. I would say that I have talked this all over with Mr. McBride at the time of Dr. Forbes' visit to Alaska and that our opinions co-incide. However, I am asking Mr. McBride to send me a copy of his letter to you and will, upon receipt of same supplement in anyway I deem advisable.

Very sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

(Copy)

September 30th, 1916

Rev. James L. McBride,

Anchorage, Alaska.

Dear Mr. McBride:

Will you kindly consider the enclosed matters and reply to Dr. Dixon as I have indicated and I should like a copy of your letter.

I think that D^r. Forbes puts it a little strongly when he says "Dr. Condit encouraged D^r. Forbes in the enterprise, and expressed his earnest hope that our Board would send a Sunday School missionary into that field"

I do not remember having made such a statement but certainly we will welcome any addition to our working force. It seems to me that Latouche would be a good place for the new missionary to begin his activities. I was under the impression that you organized a Sunday School at Kennicott in connection with your ministry at that place with McCarthy and Chitina. Also it would seem that our Cordova man, Mr. Shriver, would better continue to care for these points, as formerly.

However, I leave the recommendation as to this to you.

Where are the towns of "250 or more in which there was no religious service"? With the exception of LaTouche I know of none such.

Will you kindly return the enclosed letters to me at Juneau for my file there. I am at Ketchikan as I write on my way to Synod meeting at Everett.

My kindest regards to Mrs. McBride and to Mr. Hughes.
Cordially,

JUL 2 1917

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

June 21, 1917

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

My dear Dr. Dixon:

Dr. F.L. Forbes, until recently one of the assistant pastors of the First Presbyterian Church of Seattle, has been commissioned By the Board of S.S. Work for work in Alaska on the recommendation of his brother, Dr. W.O. Forbes, Synodical Superintendent of S.S. Work, with headquarters in Seattle. Dr. F.L. Forbes is now on his way down the Yukon to Nenana, where he expects to initiate his work in Alaska planning to be there two or three months. The Seattle papers, quoted in our Juneau papers, speak of him as the newly appointed Superintendent of S.S. Mission work in Alaska.

This formal entry of a new Home Mission agency in Alaska opens the question as to the advisability of such a movement and its modus operandi if advisable. I am enclosing the correspondence had thus far with the two Doctors Forbes by myself. In my letter to Dr. W.O. Forbes, I indicate the question at issue and my purpose to submit the same to the Board and Presbyteries of Alaska for discussion and recommendation. I believe that the Board should take up the matter with the S.S. Board. If my line of argument in my letter to Dr. W.O. Forbes is sound it would follow that it is not advisable to introduce a new agency for Home Mission operation into Alaska. It would seem on the one hand that the burden of evangelization in Alaska might be well shared in by the S.S. Board. But, how can the administration of Home Mission work in so small a field, from the view point of population, be divided between two agencies without reduplication and confusion? Why should the expense of double administration be assumed?

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORKTERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

If the S.S. Board has money to put into Alaska work why should it not operate through the administrative agency of the Home Board, already in existence, rather than create a new factor in Alaska mission operations with distinct administration?

Dr. W.O. Forbes, with his wife, made a tour of Alaska last year. At that time I met him here in Juneau and the question of sending a S.S. missionary into Alaska was discussed. I suggested that an active man, who could visit camps and communities where no missionary of our Board was available, might do very effective service and indicated that the expense of keeping such a man in commission, to do the work of a travelling evangelist, would be very great because of transportation expense as also expense of sustenance. The present plan seems to be to locate Dr. Forbes in Juneau as "Superintendent" of S.S. missions. Being a man of well above 60 he evidently would not be able for the dog-mushing, trail travelling experience I had in mind when conferring with Dr. W.O. Forbes. Evidently the S.S. Board has in mind the establishment of an entirely new mission agency in Alaska with practically the same field which the Home Mission Board is covering. This to my mind is economically a serious mistake. The use of mission money in such a scheme of reduplication of work is not justifiable. Not only is there no justification for the locating of another administrative officer in Juneau but there would be no justification for placing any other S.S. missionary here. There is no field whatever for a S.S. missionary in S.S. Alaska. There might be a field for the type of man I have indicated above to the westward but to my mind our Home Board is not only perfectly competent to care for such work there but also should be alone responsible for the pioneering of Alaska in the future as in the past.

As illustrative of the confusion likely to arise the present situation is in point. Dr. Forbes is now on his way to Nenana. As you will bear me out our plans for this summer amply provided for the opening and development of

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORKTERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

that field. Inasmuch as the Home Board had already made plans to occupy this point and because the way is open for the gathering and organization of a church, as ¹ had reported, it is not necessary that a S.S. missionary precede us there. In addition, I very much regret that our Board should lose the advantage and prestige of initiating the work there. While I was unable to see Dr. Forbes personally, while in Juneau, he was not unaware of our plans for Nenana inasmuch as Mrs. Condit informed him of my purpose of going to Nenana this summer.

It does not seem advisable to me that a new agency for the accomplishment of the identical work of the Home Board be introduced into Alaska now. Also, that such erection of a new administrative agency for the same purpose would be an unwarranted use of mission money and would result in confusion and needless complications.

In so far as I know the step of the S.S. Board has not been discussed with the Alaska Presbyteries. Unquestionably they will desire to be heard as to the advisability of the new plan of mission work. It would also seem advisable that the matter be discussed by the Boards concerned. I suggest that our Home Mission Board consider the question at its next meeting.

In the mean time may I have your judgement relative to the whole question that I may be advised in my future correspondence with the Doctors Forbes.

Very sincerely yours,



Copy

Presbyterian Sabbath School Missions
Synod of Washington
Rev. W.O. Forbes, D.D., Synodical Superintendent
1007 East Marion
Seattle, Washington

May 16, 1917

Rev. J.H. Condit, D.D.,

Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:

You will be interested to know that Dr. F.L. Forbes, assistant pastor of the First Church, Seattle, has accepted a commission to Alaska S.S. work from our Board and that he will leave for the North about June 1st.

His initial itinerary is not fully arranged yet, but in all probability he will seek to see you en route to get the benefit of your knowledge of things up there and possibly will make his headquarters in Juneau at least till he finds himself (or loses himself) in his big task.

You will find him a genial, safe and sane coworker and ready to do anything that the work demands. You know the work and needs of Alaska as no one else does and I hope you can cooperate with him in all the requirements of the situation.

I will write you again before his leaving that you may know of his arrival in Juneau if you happen to be there at that time.

Yours very cordially,

(signed) W.O. Forbes.

(copy)

Skagway, Alaska,

June 11, 1917

Rev. J.H. Condit, D.D.,

Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Brother:

I was disappointed not to see you in Juneau. I want to fashion my plans so as to fit into the general plans for the work in the north. I am leaving here tomorrow probably for the interior, going down on the river boat Alaska to Nenana. I understand Bishop Rowe is going down later in the month. I could not learn your plans but whatever they may be my work will be preparatory to yours. Write me there as soon as possible your plans and I will work to them. I shall spend two or three months in that region.

Cordially,

(signed) F.L. Forbes.

Copy

June 21, 1917

Rev. F.M. Forbes, D.D.,

Kenana, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Forbes:

I find your letter of the 11th of June waiting me on my return from Seattle and Portland. It is unfortunate that I should have missed you here on your way to the interior.

I presume that you have reference, in your inquiry as to my plans for the Alaska Home Mission work, to the program for the coming summer. As Mrs. Condit indicated, our Board expects to put men at Kenana and Ruby this summer and that I shall accompany them to their respective stations and establish them in their work. I had hoped to be away on this mission early in July but the financial condition of the treasury has somewhat impeded the plans made last winter and it will now probably be at least a month later before this program can be carried out. I expect to proceed on down the river visiting the various missions and so back to Juneau in time for a similar tour of our missions in S. Alaska in the fall.

This is the plan made for the summer campaign and is subject to revision as the emergencies of the times may demand. Should you stop at Kenana for any length of time it would be well I think to assure the people that the Board of Home Missions expects to establish a mission there this summer and locate a missionary in charge.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

Copy

June 21, 1917

Rev. W.O. Forbes, D.D.,

1007 E. Marion St.,

Seattle, Washington.

My dear Dr. Forbes:

Upon my return from Seattle and Portland I find a letter from Dr. F.L. Forbes, asking as to my plans for Home Mission work and indicating a desire to make those plans fit in with the general program for Alaska. I take it that he is thinking more immediately of the plans for the summer and have written him as to that. The Board expects to put men, with their wives, at Menana and Ruby this summer, and it had been the intention of the Board to place these men early in the summer and that I should accompany them to their respective stations and establish them in their work. The financial condition of the Board has delayed the program somewhat but so far as I know it will be carried out later on in the summer. I have suggested to Dr. F.L. Forbes, that inasmuch as he has decided to make Menana his first objective point in the interior, it would be well to advise the people of that community that the Home Board plans to provide a mission and missionary for that place this summer.

The coming of a second Home Missionary agency into Alaska, however, opens up the question of the relation of these two agencies in the general work. I would be glad to know just what the scope of operation of the S.S. Board will be. I note in the last year's report of the S.S. Board to the "assembly, that the "newer presbyteries beyond the Mississippi, extending to and including the Pacific Coast district necessitate the adoption of a method of pioneer evangelism and organization which will meet the immediate needs of such districts, gathering a constituency to hold the field and maintain the work; at the same time laying the founda-

tions for the work of the home mission pastor. In these districts the Sabbath-school missionary is the trail blazer opening the way for the home mission forces and repeating the remarkable record of results of our work in the establishment of Presbyterianism in the Middle West."

In Alaska the trail blazer has been the Home Missionary. Our Home Mission Board has to the present time done the pioneering work for the Presbyterian church and other denominations have worked along similar plans. The work has been done effectively and the Board's plans contemplate the continuance of its activity along these lines.

I do not believe that the S.S. Board is justified in entering Alaska at this time in the interests of purely Sunday School organization and work. All of our missions have Sunday Schools in connection with their stations as a recognized and initial part of their organization. There are very few communities in Alaska, with children enough to warrant a day-school, in which there is not a Sunday School of some denomination. Conditions are such in Alaska that there are no communities of farmer settlers with families such as were found in early days in the western states and our Board is caring for the only approach to such conditions as found in the Katanaska and Kusitna valleys. There we have our Mr. Hughes who is an itinerating missionary. Also, there are so few white Sunday Schools, because of the limited child population, that there is no field open, requiring the commissioning of a Sunday School missionary, to grade and otherwise care pedagogically, for organized schools.

This would seem to put the work of the Sunday School Board in Alaska on precisely the same basis as that of the Home Board, namely that of evangelization and organization. Now it is a question in my mind as to the advisability of introducing a second agency of our church into Alaska to accomplish an identical

mission. Would not that work be better accomplished under one management and is it not in the interest of economy in the expenditure of mission funds that the work be so done? With two agencies, acting independently in so far as administration is concerned I can see how there will be more or less of confusion and reduplication of effort. I note by the papers here, quoting from Seattle papers, that Dr. F.L. Forbes comes as "superintendent" of mission work in Alaska. It certainly will be confusing to Alaskans to account for two superintendents of mission work, under the same church, in Alaska, with its scattered and sparse population. After the same token, should Dr. Forbes establish "headquarters" in Juneau thus locating four Presbyterian ministers in the one town there would certainly be questioning as to the economic soundness of the principle upon which our church work is being accomplished in Alaska.

So far as the native work is concerned I suppose that there will be no question as to the confusion which must necessarily arise should another agency be introduced. That work must be certainly left with the Home Board.

I am writing in perfect frankness and fairness in order that we may come to a sane and sensible adjudication of this matter. The question has not been submitted in any form to the two Presbyteries of Alaska but ought to be and doubtless will be for discussion and recommendation. It ought also to be, in my judgement, a matter for conference between the two Boards and I am so suggesting to our Home Board. In the mean time I should be very glad to hear from you as to your thought as to the field of operations of the S.S. Board in Alaska.

Very sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

JUL 9 1917

June 27, 1917.

Rev. J. H. Condit, D. D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:-

Replying to your favor of the 21st instant, regarding the activities of the S.S. Board in Alaska, I am glad to have your frank statement and to have the privilege of making a frank reply.

Let me assure you that every possible measure will be taken to avoid any occasion of friction between our forces. We chose an experienced man with this in view, and it was with this in mind that he sought an interview with you before he entered upon his work. I'm only sorry that he failed in this.

We would like to make our work, on the other hand, as coordinate or complementary to yours. For instance in the present move our missionary will seek to open the way and hold the ground by organizing a school at Nenana, for the force you will send in, and then turn it all over to you to organize a church when the way seems clear to you, and to proceed further as your wisdom dictates. I don't think our Board would be averse to letting Dr. Forbes, with your consent, going into a vacant field like Ruby and holding the fort there for a little time, and conducting a week's meeting, gathering the forces together, getting the S.S. on its feet again, and so strengthening the work till your plans for the field are accomplished.

Then there are a lot of isolated places where people live and where the home missionaries can never go but where the gospel message from the S.S. missionary is greatly needed. In just the two months I was in Alaska last year, and through the influences then set at work I have a list of nearly twenty schools and isolated families that I have been helping all through the year. Two schools have been started since Dr. Forbes left - one at Port Walter, and one at Perseverance Mine - both near Juneau. I am helping at Kennicott, at Chitena, at Sitka, at Katalla, at Latouche and a lot of other places.

As to an understanding with the Home Board, we thrashed that out before we took a single step. Mr. Somerndike was wise enough to take that up with Dr. Dixon, and had his hearty approval before he would take it up even with your men on the field. Then I sent Dr. Dixon a copy of my report, asking for his further judgement after seeing the situation through my eyes, and in response to this I have his very hearty approval and the warm welcome of our forces into the field. In addition to this we took it up, through the Philadelphia office, with six key men on the field, yourself among them, and took the step after all this and nearly a year's deliberation.

Then, after all this, we went on a still hunt for a missionary. Instead of taking a young man as is our custom, we picked out a man of experience and good judgement, that no possible mistakes could occur in our planting new schools, or in our cooperation with the home missionary forces.

As to the newspaper reports of Dr. Forbes' plans, no one is responsible for them but the reporters themselves, I have seen their statements in the papers - one that he was to have his headquarters at Sitka, one at Juneau, and one at Skagway. My recommendation was for Skagway, and so far he gets his mail there from both myself and the Board in care of the Bank of Alaska by kindness of Mr. Stevenson, who will forward his mail to him.

The matter of hearquarters is not very essential as he will be in the field about all the time, and I tell him his hindquarters will be his headquarters the most of the time, as wherever he happens to be will be his address, except for official communications. And as to his being called superintendent, he is appointed to the Sunday-school work alone, which so far as Alaska is concerned he will practically superintend, though he will be under my supervision the same as all other Sunday-school missionaries in the Synod.

With this statement I trust that we can pull together, and that you will consider us a real help, and in no wise a hindrance to the great work you are doing in Alaska.

Yours very cordially,

Copy No 1 Dr Dixon

Presbyterian Sabbath School Missions

SYNOD OF WASHINGTON

REV. W. O. FORBES, D. D., SYNODICAL SUPERINTENDENT

1007 EAST MARION

SEATTLE, WASH.

June 27, 1917.

Rev. J. H. Condit, D. D.
Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:-

—Replying to your favor of the 21 inst, re the activities of the S. S. Board in Alaska, I am glad to have your frank statement and to have the privilege of making a frank reply.

Let me assure you that every possible measure will be taken to avoid any occasion of friction between our forces. We chose an experienced man with this in view, and it was with this in mind that we sought an interview with you before he entered upon his work. I'm only sorry that he failed in this.

We would like to make our work as coordinate or complementary to yours. For instance our missionary will seek to open the way and hold the ground by organizing a school at Nenana for the force you will send in, and then turn it all over to you to organize a church when the way seems clear to you, and to proceed further as your wisdom dictates. I don't think that our Board would be averse, with your consent, to letting Dr. Forbes go into a vacant field like ~~Ruby~~ Ruby and hold the fort there for a little time and, conducting a week's meeting possibly, gathering the forces together, getting the S. S. on its feet again, and so strengthening the work till your plans for the field are accomplished.

Then there are a lot of isolated places where people live and where the home missionaries can never go, but where the gospel message from the S. S. missionary is greatly needed. In just the two months I was in Alaska last year and through influences then set at work I have a list of nearly 20 schools and isolated families that I have been helping all through the year. Two schools have been started since Dr. Forbes left—one at Port Walter and one at Perseverance Mine—both near Juneau. I am helping at Kennicott, at Chitena, at Sitka, at Katalla, at Latouche and a lot of other places.

As to an understanding with the Home Board we thrashed that out before we took a single step. Mr. Somerndike was wise enough to take that up with Dr. Dixon and had his hearty approval before he would take it up even with you men on the field. Then I sent a copy of my Survey to Dr. Dixon asking for his further Judgment after seeing the situation through my eyes, in response to which I have his very hearty approval and his warm welcome of our forces into the field. In addition to this we took it up through the P. Phil. office with six key-men on the field—yourself among them, and took the final step after all this and after nearly a year's consideration.

Then finally, we went on a still hunt for a missionary. Instead of taking a young man as is our usual custom we picked out a man of experience and mature judgment that no possible mistake could occur in our planting new schools, or in our cooperation with our home missionary forces.

As to the newspaper reports of Dr. Forbes' plans no one is responsible but the reporters themselves, so don't let that worry you. I've seen 3 statements in the papers—one that he was to have his headquarters at Sitka, one at Juneau and one at Skagway. My recommendation was at Skagway, and so far

Presbyterian Sabbath School Missions

SYNOD OF WASHINGTON

REV. W. O. FORBES, D. D., SYNODICAL SUPERINTENDENT

1007 EAST MARION

SEATTLE, WASH.

he gets his mail there both from myself and the Board in care of the Bank of Alaska, by kindness of Mr. Stevenson who will forward his mail to him.

The matter of headquarters is not very essential anyway, as he will be in the field about all the time, and I tell him his headquarters will be his headquarters the most of the time, as wherever he happens to be will be his address except for official communications. And as to his being called Superintendent, he is appointed to the S.S. work alone which, so far as Alaska is concerned, he will practically superintend—though he will be under my supervision the same as all other S.S. missionaries in the Synod.

With this statement, I trust we can pull together, and that you will find us a real help and in no sense a hindrance to the great work you are doing in Alaska.

Yours Very Cordially,

JUL 9 1917

Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work

Philadelphia

*Rev. Alexander Henry, D.D., Secretary,
410 Witherspoon Building*

*See my letter to Soule to the S. of 19.
Also Condit letter to Dr. Forbes of Feb 28*

July 7th, 1917.

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Dear Dr. Dixon:

Your letter, together with enclosures, was received to-day. I am glad to learn that you are at The Breakers and will look forward to seeing you shortly. Mrs. Henry will be glad to know that Mrs. Dixon is going to be there for she enjoys meeting with her. When we meet, we will have a conference about the Alaska situation.

In the meantime, I will enclose a copy of a letter recently received from Dr. Forbes. It is in reply to the letter of June 21st, which Dr. Condit wrote to Dr. W. O. Forbes and which you sent to me.

After reading the letters Dr. Condit wrote to you and to Dr. Forbes, in connection with Dr. Forbes' reply, I am inclined to think that Dr. Condit is attaching too much importance to the sending of a Sunday-school missionary into Alaska. He writes as if it was a rival Home Missionary agency that has been established there. This was not in any way the intention of our Board. Information came to us from a number of quarters that settlers were pressing into Alaska, and public schools being erected where ~~there~~ there was no opportunity for a church to be organized. After considerable correspondence, we asked Dr. W. O. Forbes to visit Alaska. He went there with an open mind, and conferred with a number of people, Dr. Condit among them. His report was favorable to the sending of a missionary. You will recall our writing to you upon the subject and your cordial approval. So far as I am aware, every one we consulted favored the sending of a Sunday-school missionary into Alaska.

I do not see that anything has occurred as yet to make it seem that a mistake was made. The fact that newspaper reporters have given Dr. Forbes

Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work.
Philadelphia.

Rev. Alexander Henry, D.D. Secretary
440 Witherspoon Building

J.D., Page 2.

the title of "Superintendent" or that he has organized a Sunday school in a community where Dr. Condit hopes to establish a Presbyterian church, does not seem to be a reason for raising the question. My thought would be that we ought to give the effort a fair trial now that we have gone so far, and that Dr. Condit should try to see the ~~matter~~ matter in the light of the needs of Alaska as the other Presbyterians there seem to have seen it.

ok I will return the correspondence so that you may have it on file.

With best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Alexander Henry -

JUL 29 1917 *int 9.26.17*

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

July 19, 1917

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,

156 5th Avenue, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Dixon:

This letter has to do with the entrance of the S.S. Board into Alaska and should be associated with my letter of June 21st on the same subject.

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter from Dr. W.O. Forbes, of Seattle, Synodical Sunday School Superintendent, Synod of Washington, which is in reply to my letter of June 21st, to him, a copy of which I have furnished to you in connection with my communication of June 21st.

You will notice that he quotes you as heartily endorsing the entry of the Sunday School Board into Alaska.

I have set forth my views fully in my letter to Dr. Forbes and repetition is not necessary.

The Alaska Presbyteries have not been heard and were not consulted by the Sunday School Board as to this new departure. I am confident that each of them will adopt a resolution expressing their disapproval of the entry of an independent Home Mission Agency of the Presbyterian Church into Alaska. But this can not be done until late fall after the meetings of the presbyteries.

In the mean time I feel that the Board should firmly as well as kindly insist that in the interest of the cause it is advisable that the Home Board be continued in its responsibility for the evangelization of Alaska, as in the past, and until such time as the development of the territory warrants the introduction of other agencies, and that the entrance of the Sunday School Board at this stage is not only not warranted by the needs of the field but will also make possible considerable confusion in mission operations.

If, as you say, the Sunday School Board will insist upon pushing an independent propoganda, then we must face the problem with such grace and wisdom as the exigency demands.

Certainly, we will insist that the Sunday School Board do not undertake any work among our S.E. Alaska natives. That would be indeed folly. If they wish native work let them experiment on the Bristol Bay situation or in other localities where there is no protestant mission work.

Also, may we not be able to induce the management of the S.S. Board to accept the supervision of the Home Mission Board, if it is still insisted that the missionaries of the S.S. Board be in Alaska. I can see it in no other light than that a double administration of Home Mission enterprise in Alaska will be hurtful to the cause.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

JUL 29 1917 Copy

Copy of letter from Dr. W.O. Forbes, 1007 E. Marion St.,
Seattle, Washington, Superintendent of S.S. Missions, Synod of Washington.

June 27, 1917

Rev. J.H. Condit, D.D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:

Replying to your favor of the 21st inst. re the activities of the S.S. Board in Alaska, I am glad to have your frank statement and to have the privilege of making a frank reply.

Let me assure you that every possible measure will be taken to avoid any occasion of friction between our forces. We chose an experienced man with this in view and it was with this in mind that he sought an interview with you before he entered upon his work. I'm only sorry that he failed in this.

We would like to make our work on the other hand, as coordinate or complementary to yours. For instance in the present move our missionary will seek to open the way and hold the ground by organizing a school at Nenana, for the force you will send in, and then turn it all over to you to organize a church when the way seems clear to you and to proceed further as your wisdom dictates. I don't think our Board would be averse to letting Dr. Forbes, with your consent, go into a vacant field like Ruby and holding the fort there for a little time and conducting a week's meeting, gathering the forces together, getting the S.S. on its feet again, and so strengthening the work till your plans for the field are accomplished.

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The matter of headquarters is not essential as he will be in the field about all the time, and I tell him his hindquarters will be his headquarters the most of the time, as wherever he happens to be will be his address except for official communications. And as to his being called superintendent he is appointed to the S.S. work alone, which so far as Alaska is concerned he will practically superintend, though he will be under my supervision the same as all other S.S. missionaries in the Synod.

With this statement I trust that we can pull together, and that you will find us a real help and in no way a hindrance to the great work you are doing in Alaska.

Yours very cordially,

(Signed) W.O. Forbes

Copy

July 19, 1917

Rev. W.O. Forbes, D.D.,
Seattle, Washington.

My dear Dr. Forbes:

Your letter of the 27th ult relative to the entry of the S.S. Board into mission work in Alaska seems to bear out the thought which I have had in mind that the purpose of such entry is primarily evangelistic work and initiation of missions and not Sunday School organization. This naturally follows inasmuch as there is no field in Alaska for the latter.

As I said in my letter to Mr. Somerndike, of a year ago, a consecrated man who would be willing to travel and able to pay the expense of travel in the isolated mining camps of the interior and who would act in the capacity of colporteur, or something of that kind, could do a good work. That involves a very hardy man of youth and strong constitution who can "mush" with dog teams and generally compete with the prospector and miner in physical things. It is a work which I could not undertake at my age and I ^{am} very confident that your brother would not be able for it.

In so far as S.A. Alaska is concerned there is no place for such an evangelist for the simple reason that all communities of any size are reached by the home mission agencies of the various churches.

My contention is that the Sunday School Board in coming in to Alaska at this time simply introduces another home mission agency and second machine of the Presbyterian Church for the accomplishment of the identical purpose. This is not good business management and in addition will almost surely introduce conditions of misunderstanding and friction.

The Kenana instance serves as an illustration. As I wrote to you the Home Board had all plans made for the occupancy of Kenana this summer and I am soon to go in there with a man according to the plans made a year ago. We would have preferred to do our own pioneering there and to have had the prestige of introducing that work. It will be no especial help to us to have what little preliminary work Dr. Forbes has done there. As at Anchorage, and elsewhere, we have always attended to the Sunday school organization along with other organization features, and would so have done at Kenana.

Again, you refer to Dr. Forbes having organized a S.S. at Perseverance and of your helping at Kemicott, Chitina, Sitka, etc. (Perseverance

Our Mr. Stevens conducted services at Kemicott/with more or less regularity all during his seven years pastorate at Juneau and our new man Mr. Bruce had planned to visit Perseverance on his return from the Assembly to look after all matters of religious work there. The field is a part of our Juneau parish. Mr. McBride of Anchorage, formerly of Comova, preached regularly at Kemicott and a Sunday school has been in existence there for some time. He also preached at Chitina and Mr. Shriver, our present missionary at Comova, regularly visits each of these places. In so far as Sitka is concerned we have had Sunday schools there for natives and whites for over thirty years.

Since writing to you I have conferred with many of our missionaries relative to the matter at issue and I find practical unanimity of opinion that the coming of the Sunday School Board into Alaska at this time, not as a purely Sunday School agency, but as a second Home Mission Agency is both a financial and strategical error. It is the introduction of an independent organization under the same auspices of support by the Presbyterian Church to work for the same thing. There should be but one agency in control of the Home Mission work in Alaska.

I am very sure that the presbyteries will take action to this end. There is perhaps some feeling because the presbyteries were in no way consulted as to the new departure.

In concluding I may say that I have the highest regard both for yourself and Dr. W.O. Forbes and know well that no man could have been sent to Alaska more genial and lovable as a co-worker but I am strongly of the opinion that as the leader in a new Home Mission Agency in Alaska he is in the wrong place and must so express myself out of a sincere conviction of duty to the work and its successful prosecution.

The Home Mission Board has for all these years been the pioneering agency in Alaska, is able to continue as such and to fully care for the situation and desires to be left in charge of the responsibilities and control of such work until such time as natural growth provides a field for other agencies.

Very sincerely yours,

James A. Condit

SEP 17 1917

Board of Publication and S. S. Work
1310 WALNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA

Copy No 2 Dr Dyson

REV. ALEXANDER HENRY, D. D. SECRETARY
J. M. SOMERNDIKE SUPT. S. S. MISSIONS

Presbyterian Sabbath School Missions

SYNOD OF WASHINGTON

REV. W. O. FORBES, D. D., SYNODICAL SUPERINTENDENT

1007 EAST MARION

SEATTLE, WASH.

July 28, 1917.

Rev. J. H. Condit, D. D.

Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Mr. Condit:-

Your letter of the 19th inst. is just at hand upon my return from the Oregon Synod.

I am sorry that I did not make it plain to you that the object of our going into Alaska is to do just what the S. S. Board is organized to do and seeks to do in every field that it enters.

I hope you will withhold final judgment till our work can show for itself. I am sure that if the effort proves that we have no field in Alaska the Board will recognize as quickly as any one. Of course, I am quite aware that the missionaries in Alaska will naturally yield to your judgment in this matter and would take any action in reference to it that you would suggest, but we earnestly sought to get their views before we took a step, and honestly thought that we were fortified with their favorable opinion and united good will.

You will no doubt have seen Dr. Forbes before receiving this, and will have talked it all over with him, and both of you will have found yourselves so far as the possibilities of cooperation are concerned and I need not discuss that with you here, for you will find him approachable and reasonable.

I shall be greatly disappointed if our efforts in Alaska prove anything less than a great blessing to the children there, and to the scattered and unchurched families in that great Wonderland. I have had abundant opportunity since my visit up there last year to be helpful at this long range to a score of small settlements and to numerous isolated families and children, and for this I am thankful indeed.

Yours Very Cordially,

P.S. In re-reading your letter I feel that I must further say that I am not willing to accept the construction you put upon my statement of our plans for the work up there and upon which you base your conclusion that there is no place for us in the Alaska field.

W.O.F.

SEP 6 - 1917

August 14, 1917.

Rev. J. H. Condit, D.D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:

We have just received through the Rev. J. L. Hughes, a copy of the report of the Committee on the Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work of the Presbytery of Yukon, submitted at its recent meeting.

We are glad to receive this report, first because it indicates that Yukon Presbytery has a Committee on this Board and again, because it gives us, for the first time since the erection of Yukon Presbytery, an official correspondent with whom we may communicate from time to time, and through whom matters of interest to the Sunday-schools and the workers in Yukon Presbytery may be aggressively pushed. When we last wrote to you as Stated Clerk of Yukon Presbytery, asking the name and address of the Chairman of the presbyterial committee on our Board, you replied as follows: - "This presbytery, on account of various local conditions has no regular organization, at present. Kindly make a note of this on your records." Accordingly no further attempt was made to communicate with such a committee for Yukon Presbytery. We expected, of course, that when "local conditions" improved sufficiently to warrant the appointment of the committee, we would be notified. This evidently was overlooked.

The report of this Committee would be surprising were it not for the fact that Dr. Forbes has already acquainted us with the change in your attitude toward our entrance into the Alaska field, which is so clearly reflected in this report. We are puzzled, however, to understand why you now object so strenuously to our endeavors to further the work of extending the Kingdom in Alaska, when you so cordially favored in your letter of October 28th, 1916. You will remember that I wrote to you enclosing a copy of Dr. Forbes' report upon the Alaska situation, in which he recommended that a Sabbath-school Missionary be appointed for Alaska, and in this letter I requested you to freely express your judgment as to the advisability of undertaking such a work. The following is quoted from your reply: -

"In my judgment there can be no question as to the desirability of such a Missionary in Alaska. I only wish that there might be a number of them. Our Home Board has often had before them the plea of men on the field for itinerating missionaries to reach the isolated places and districts with too sparse a population to warrant placing missionaries for all of their time. The considerations which have prevented commissioning such moving missionaries thus far have been these."

You then proceeded to point out the heavy expense that would be involved and expressed the opinion that Dr. Forbes' estimate of \$2500 per year was too low. You also called attention to the difficulties of transportation and your letter closed with this paragraph:

"I have presented the facts as I know them and as affecting our Home Mission work. I wish to repeat that the services of such men as I know many of our Sunday School missionaries to be would be of great spiritual value. The difficulties in the way are as suggested."

In addition to this, Dr. Forbes wrote that he consulted with you before visiting Alaska and that you encouraged him in his plans. He also reported that you received him very cordially when he arrived in Alaska where he met you on three different occasions. He naturally expected, in view of these things, that you would welcome our appointee with the warmest cordiality and that the way had thus been prepared for the closest co-operation.

When we wrote to you last Fall, we wrote also to Rev. James L. McBride, Rev. A. G. Shriver, Rev. Robt. A. Buchanan, and Mr. Andrew Stevenson. Every one replied in the same cordial manner as you did, expressing the earnest hope that our Board would speedily send a Sabbath-school Missionary to Alaska and that in view of the scarcity of workers, in the presence of an urgent need, an additional missionary representing the Sunday-school phase of Presbyterian activity, would be gladly welcomed. In addition to this we received the approval of Dr. Dixon, Secretary of the Home Mission Board.

The only way we can account for your changed attitude is in an apparent misapprehension upon your part as to the function of the Sabbath-school Missionary. The "Report of the Committee on Publication and Sabbath-school Work" is based upon the same misconception of our Board's work as is expressed in your letter to Dr. Forbes. We cannot agree to your statement of our functions in the Alaska field, nor to the definition which appears in the "Report of the Committee &c." We have no desire to enter Alaska as a "second home mission force" with "independent administration of identical work." The "Report" states further that the Board of Home Missions has "thoroughly occupied the field, is able to continue such ministry, and purposes to evangelize Alaska by establishing missions, organizing churches and Sunday-schools, and supporting itinerating missionaries as in the past." The General Assembly Minutes of 1916 indicate only two Sunday-schools in Yukon Presbytery, one at Fairbanks and the other at Cordova. Evidently very little emphasis has been placed upon Sunday-school work. We hoped by our entrance into the field to improve the Sunday-school situation, at least so far as the Presbyterian Church is concerned.

Now, my dear Dr. Condit, we have no desire to detract in the slightest way from the prestige which the Home Mission forces have enjoyed in caring for the Alaska work, nor do we desire to trespass upon the prerogatives of the home missionaries, nor to take away from the Home Mission forces any of the work they are now doing.

We cannot see why the work in Alaska cannot be done in the

same spirit of cordial cooperation between the representatives of the two Boards as now exists in the entire Synod of Washington as well as in all the other synods throughout the United States. If the home mission forces in the western synods at the time the General Assembly inaugurated the work of Sabbath-school Missions, thirty years ago, had assumed the same attitude toward the work as is reflected in your letter to Dr. Forbes and in the "Report of the Committee, etc.", what progress, think you, would have been made in extending the boundaries of Presbyterianism throughout those regions, and how extensively would our Church have been represented in the development of the Western States? It was largely due to the splendid cooperation between the representatives of the two Boards, in these fields, that the remarkable record of the onward march of Presbyterianism, during the past thirty years, was made possible.

We are glad to have contributed our humble part in this work by doing the pioneering, visiting the regions beyond and between, not reached by home mission pastors, distributing literature, winning the children to the study of the Word, organizing and maintaining mission Sunday-schools in spiritually destitute places; in other words, sowing the Gospel seed, from which the Church has reaped a bountiful harvest. We do not organize churches, nor have we any intention of usurping that home mission prerogative. Our function is primarily to promote Sunday-school work by developing existing schools and organizing schools in localities where they are not found, thus laying foundations for larger work. Surely there must be room in the great territory of Alaska for such work especially in view of the descriptions contained in Dr. Forbes' report, of places in which Sunday-schools were needed.

In this connection you may be interested to know that we are encouraging and assisting by correspondence and by donations of Sunday-school supplies, a number of mission Sunday-schools in Alaska at the present time. These schools should be developed; they should be visited and their workers encouraged; they should be brought into touch with the Sunday-school forces of America and made to feel that they are a part of the great Sunday-school army. The resources of our Board should be placed at their disposal and they should have the same advantages as are given to the Presbyterian Sunday-schools in the other parts of the United States. Otherwise we cannot expect them ever to progress beyond the mission stage. But if we develop an Alaska Sunday-school spirit, we shall begin to see some aggressive work along modern Sunday-school lines that will give a new impetus to every phase of Presbyterian activity in Alaska. We make a mistake sometimes, in keeping many of our mission fields in the "mission" class because we feel that they are not prepared to grasp the larger vision or capable of doing the larger things. I do not believe in holding before them the impracticable things, but I do most earnestly believe that there is no progress without a constant effort and striving toward improvement. Only thus can we expect the crude little mission school or church to emerge from its unfavorable and unpromising environment into a real factor for the promotion of community righteousness. It is the law of growth which you know as well as I. "First the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear." This was Christ's way and so we must do His work.

As I write a letter comes to my desk from Dr. F. L. Forbes. He states that he wrote to you before leaving Seattle and indicated the time when he expected to arrive in Juneau. He wired you also from Wrangell while en route, but when he arrived he found that you had gone to Vancouver, two days before, to attend the Odd Fellows Convention. He waited in Juneau a week hoping to see you upon your return, but felt that he could not wait any longer. He wrote to you from Skagway asking for an outline of your plans, so that his efforts might be in conformity therewith, and received your reply about the second week in July stating that you would be in Nenana about August 15th or September 1st with a man to place in charge of the Nenana field. Accordingly, Dr. Forbes proceeded at once to hold services, organize a Sunday-school and develop plans to get the work in readiness for your coming believing that in so doing he would be performing a real service to the Cause, intending, of course, to hand it over to you and your new missionary just as soon as you should arrive, and to pass on giving his attention to other needy fields. This is the course that has been followed in hundreds of instances throughout the entire West and South and the Home Mission Board as well as its representatives on the field have always expressed themselves as being proud of the pioneer work which the Sabbath-school Missionaries have thus performed. The Home Mission Board receives the credit for founding the new church, and it has always been the part of the Sabbath-school Missionary to step back and hand the new organization over to the Home Missionary. The building up of Christ's Kingdom and the extension of the boundaries of our beloved Church are the considerations which must ever be uppermost if we would merit the blessing of the Lord of the harvest. I Corinthians 3:5-9.

I am sure that when you and Dr. Forbes meet for an interview all your misgivings will be allayed and that you will be able to plan an aggressive program in which each agency will do its part, and as the result of which the Church which we all love will lead the way for the evangelization of this frontier territory.

With cordial regards, believe me

Faithfully yours,

Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work

Sabbath-School and Missionary Department

RECEIVED
Ans'd OCT 20 1917

REV. ALEXANDER HENRY, D.D., SECRETARY
M. S. COLLINGWOOD, TREASURER
J. M. SOMERNDIKE, SUPT. OF MISSIONS
WITHERSPOON BUILDING, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

August 14, 1917.

PLEASE RETURN TO
JAMES H. CONDIT
JUNEAU, ALASKA.

Rev. J. H. Condit, D.D.,

Juneau, Alaska.

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Field Representatives of the Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work

ALABAMA

Mr. P. E. Green (Synodical), 1309 Allen St., Birmingham
Rev. G. E. Henderson (Colored) 319 Selma Ave., Selma
Mr. H. L. Turner, Albany (New Decatur)

ARIZONA

Mr. W. D. Himebaugh, R. D. 2, Phoenix

ARKANSAS

Mr. C. N. Shropshire, 2418 Center St., Little Rock
Mr. Jos. G. Taylor, Ravenden Springs
Rev. C. H. Whitehead, Harrison
Mr. Edgar T. Wisner, 1315 Broadway, Little Rock
Mr. Edward G. Hellen, c/o Rev. Robert Robinson, Clarksville

CALIFORNIA

Rev. Geo. C. Butterfield, Supt., 125 Ave. 51, Los Angeles
Mr. Arthur J. Gunn, San Anselmo
Rev. Paul G. Stevens, 311 Hickey St., Santa Ana
Rev. M. T. A. White, Red Bluff
Rev. E. F. Knickerbocker, 1920 Belmont Ave., Fresno
Rev. W. A. Couden, 11 Menker Ave., San Jose

COLORADO

Rev. James Russell, 911 East Tenth St., Pueblo
Mr. W. H. Schureman, 1351 Grant St., Denver
Rev. D. W. Montgomery, 838 White Ave., Grand Junction

FLORIDA

Rev. G. V. Albertson, Deland

GEORGIA (Colored)

Rev. A. B. McCoy, D.D., Supt., 205 Forsyth St., Americus
Rev. E. C. Hames, 199 Irwin St., Atlanta
Mr. J. W. Rhetta, 23 Albany Ave., Waycross
Mr. A. E. Sephas, 612 Jefferson St., Dublin

IDAHO

Rev. H. W. Rankin, Supt., Pocatello
Rev. J. K. MacGillivray, P. O. Box 521, Twin Falls
Rev. George A. Wilber, Caldwell
Rev. C. M. Junkin, 165 11th St., Idaho Falls

ILLINOIS

Rev. W. B. Shirey, 622 Henry St., Alton

INDIANA

Rev. A. E. von Stilli, 624 E. Monroe St., Franklin
Rev. F. W. Grossman, D.D., Supt., Franklin
Mr. Theron Hill, 552 Polk St., Gary

IOWA

Rev. S. R. Ferguson, D.D., Supt., 1237 First Ave., Cedar Rapids
Rev. L. E. Koenig, Fairfield
Mr. L. D. Compton, Fort Dodge

KANSAS

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Mr. E. W. Martin, 1316 Lincoln St., Topeka
Mr. Peter S. Grimstead, Hutchinson

KENTUCKY

Mr. J. T. Smith, Bowling Green
Rev. Wm. F. De Bardeleben, 920 W. Chestnut St., Louisville
(Colored)
Mr. W. E. Donaldson, Pikeville
Rev. J. E. S. Lahman, London
Rev. S. C. Presnell, c/o Rev. Geo. S. Watson, Booneville

MICHIGAN

Rev. A. R. Atwood, Supt., 327 S. Walnut St., Lansing
Rev. Clarence Lamb, Albion

MINNESOTA

Mr. R. F. Sulzer, Supt., 703 Plymouth Bldg., Minneapolis
Rev. Jas. M. Bain, 112 Parsons St., Mankato
Mr. S. A. Blair, 4507 Gladstone St., Duluth
Rev. R. S. Pryor, Warroad
Mr. Thomas Scotton, Willmar
Rev. S. F. Sharpless, D.D., Fergus Falls

MISSISSIPPI

Rev. R. F. Johnston, 2716 10th St., Meridian
Rev. VanHorn Murray, Box 60, R. F. D. 2, West Point (Col.)

MISSOURI

Rev. J. T. Hartman, 58th and Swope Parkway, Kansas City
Mr. Adolph Peterson, 1307 Cairo St., Springfield
Mr. W. S. Stinson, Fredericktown
Mr. Roscoe T. Fulton, Route 3, Piedmont, Wayne Co.
Prof. E. A. Smith, 3447 Chippewa St., St. Louis
Mr. Joseph Bruce, P. O. Box 255, 834 Forrest St., Carthage

MONTANA

Rev. E. M. Ellis, Supt., 930 N. Rodney St., Helena
Rev. W. M. Bailey, Box 439, Great Falls
Rev. Walter H. Hillis, 163 3d Ave. East, North, Kalispell

NEBRASKA

Rev. Ralph H. Houseman, 1115 S. 30th Ave., Omaha
Rev. Samuel Light, Bridgeport

NEW MEXICO

Rev. J. W. Winder, Albuquerque

NORTH DAKOTA

Rev. J. T. L. Coates, Devils Lake
Rev. S. B. Doty, Oakes
Mr. Robert W. Weibel, 417 Third St., N. E., Minot
Mr. C. A. Balcom, New Salem

NORTH CAROLINA (Colored)

Mr. W. H. Jackson, New Bern, Box 753
Mr. I. M. Martin, 525 S. Macon St., Greensboro

OHIO

Rev. E. L. Buchanan, 603 University St., Wooster
Rev. Frank S. Colvin, 1541 Michigan Ave., Columbus

OKLAHOMA

Rev. T. S. Buchanan, 25 E. 3d St., Oklahoma City
Rev. F. E. Duncan, 209 1/2 Callahan St., Muskogee
Rev. A. B. Johnson, Elk City
Rev. Geo. B. Spangler, McAlester
Rev. W. M. Hutchinson, 312 W. Maple St., Enid
Rev. Henry C. Cousins, Lima (Colored)

OREGON

Rev. Wm. Baird, Baker, Baker Co.
Rev. Rollin E. Blackman, Milton
Rev. Chas. W. Hays, D.D., 422 Abington Bldg., Portland
Rev. Wm. J. Large, Box 293, Eugene

SOUTH CAROLINA (Colored)

Rev. Geo. T. Dillard, D.D., Supt., 2019 Marion St., Columbia
Rev. W. T. Frasier, Walterboro
Rev. J. W. Manoney, Route 1, Box 43, Sumter

SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. Edwin H. Grant, Supt., Huron
Rev. John R. Hughes, 426 S. Jackson St., Aberdeen
Rev. Geo. W. Hawley, Rapid City

TENNESSEE

Rev. W. A. Provine, D.D., Supt., Presbyterian Bldg., Nashville
Rev. W. W. Baxter, Dickson
Mr. S. A. D. Smith, Livingston
Rev. J. H. Wallin, Johnson City
Rev. John H. Wright, Sevierville
Mr. C. M. Wallin, Box 294, Bristol
Rev. E. B. Johnson, Jackson
Mr. James D. Burton, 24 Oakdale Rd., Harriman
Rev. F. C. Shirley, 315 Fouche St., Knoxville

TEXAS

Rev. J. B. Kerr, Snyder
Rev. Bernard L. Rice, 4314 Bryan Ave., Dallas
Rev. J. H. Abney, Henderson
Mr. Franklin Dunn, Amarillo

UTAH

Mr. W. H. Herrick, Green River
Rev. T. M. Keusseff, Mt. Pleasant
Mr. William Hutton, Springville

WASHINGTON

Rev. W. O. Forbes, D.D., Supt., 1007 E. Marion St., Seattle
Rev. E. A. Ballis, Box 550, Garfield
Mr. R. D. Everett, Centralia
Rev. C. A. Dolph, 2128 Broadway, Everett
Rev. C. R. McMillin, Route 3, Box 251, Seattle
Rev. B. F. Mitchell, 1123 E. Ermina St., Spokane

WEST VIRGINIA

Rev. E. V. Black, 1516 Washington St., Charleston
Mr. L. E. Black, 1723 Avery St., Parkersburg

WISCONSIN

Rev. E. Iverson, Box 360, Eau Claire
Rev. W. L. Hood, 202 Spring St., Waukesha

WYOMING

Rev. H. W. Bainton, Cheyenne
Rev. R. R. Marquis, Basin
Prof. Henry M. Steidley, Box 513, Laramie

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With cordial regards, believe me

Faithfully yours,

M. Somerville
Supt.

OCT 15 1917
PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

Nenana, Alaska,
August 23, 1917

Mr. J.A.Gould,
302 American Bank Building,
Seattle.

My dear Mr. Gould:

Some time since I wrote you relative to the entrance of the Sunday School Board into Alaska.

In that letter I expressed the opinion that if the S.S.Board was proposing to do the identical work of the Home Mission Board in Alaska that the result would be confusion and unnecessary re-duplication of effort.

I arrived here last week with the Rev. Mr. Diven and wife who are under commission of our Home Board for this work. The Home Board has had it in mind to enter here for more than a year. The only preventing cause has been the inability of the Board to find a suitable man. It was planned early last winter that I should make this trip to the interior with the man for Nenana and establish him in his place.

As you know, Dr. Forbes came to Juneau some eight weeks ago on his way to his new work as representative of the S.S.Board. Unfortunately, I was absent from Juneau at the time. My wife, however, informed him of my plan to leave shortly with a man for Nenana.

Upon my arrival here with Mr. and Mrs. Diven I found the following:

Dr. Forbes had purchased a lot for a church site, had projected plans for building, had material on the ground and labor performed toward the actual erection of a church edifice. He had partially circulated a subscription paper for the same. He had been elected a member of the school committee of the town. There was an impression on the part of some with whom I conversed that he was here permanently. One woman expressed her regret that he was not going to remain. There was no thought on the part of the community that he did not represent our Presbyterian church in whatever mission enterprise was projected.

I found it necessary to reject the lot selected for a church site because it was poorly located in relation to the town and in addition was on low ground, subject to overflow, and on the edge of a swamp. It was a fine illustration of precisely what a church site should not be. It was also necessary to reject the plan for building on the ground of inadequacy. I also was compelled to take exception

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

to the plan for building operations because no building committee had been appointed and no business like arrangement made to carry the project through.

I believe that the situation has been saved without any rupture here. At first I could not see how what had been done could be undone without arousing feeling. In my judgement we have succeeded in staying what would have been a costly error in foundation work which might have injured our work permanently.

I have gone somewhat into detail because we have here an excellent illustration of the possibilities of harm to the cause where two agencies of the church are attempting the identically same work.

There was no reason for Dr. Forbes coming to Nenana. The Home Board had its plans all made for occupying this field more than a year ago. Economically there can be no justification for the S.S. Board sending a man to interior Alaska, at the large expense involved, to do the very work for which I and the missionaries of the Home Board are employed to do. Dr. Forbes has not only done nothing which Mr. Divens and myself could have done on this field but in addition he has presumed to set on foot the whole enterprise of building and permanent organization which belongs solely to the Home Mission Board. He was proceeding on the theory that the Home Board would back and finance the enterprise of buying and building, in conjunction with the Church Election Board, although he is not the agent of these Boards and in face of the fact that I as the agent of the Board of Home Missions was expecting to be soon on the field with a man to take up the work here.

The Home Mission Board has been the pioneering agency in Alaska from the first and has not required the assistance of any other agency to do its work of preparation. We prefer to build our own foundations from the ground up. The prestige which comes from first occupancy we are entitled to. We want to make our own plans for lots and church edifices and plans of operation in new communities. Speaking for myself and not for Mr. Diven, I would have much preferred that Dr. Forbes had not done anything here but had left the field entirely uninfluenced until the permanent missionary was on the ground and could act for himself.

In corresponding with Mr. Somerndike last year as to the advisability of bringing Sunday School missionaries into Alaska I said that if ^{men} could be sent into certain parts of the Territory who could (ourselves) travel from community to community in isolated places acting as colporters visiting out of the way camps where no missionary has gone or can at present go there would be a field for operation. This means vigorous young men who can "mush" it through the winter trails. If the Sunday School Board can meet the expenses of such missionaries, which will be very great, they would be useful.

Mr. J.A.Gould, Aug 23, 1917

-3-

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS

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But a strict interpretation of the field of the S.S.Board would seem to restrict it to purely Sunday School work. This would take into consideration the organization and caring for Sunday Schools.

I am positive that there is at present no field for such work of sufficient magnitude to justify the S.S.Board in keeping men in Alaska. The population is not sufficient and especially the family population to warrant any such expense. Alaska has no settled, farming communities, such as is characteristic of the rural districts in the states. The difficulties of travel are so great and the expense is such as to make it impossible to get from place to place as in the states.

Also, our Home Missionaries are fully alive to the necessities of the Sunday School development in connection with their work and invariably organize schools in connection with their stations. We do not need other organizers in our Home Mission Stations and these, together with those of other denominations, well cover the towns and settled portions of the Territory.

If the Sunday School Board is coming into Alaska to take up the work of evangelization, organization of missions, and pioneering new communities then it is duplicating the work which the Home Board is doing. If this Nenana affair is a representative case the result can be only confusion, misunderstanding and hurt to the cause. Our Home Board has not only supported and projected the mission work of Alaska in the past but is able to continue to do so and desires to have the field which naturally belongs to it, viz, the centres which are ready for organization or planting of missions, left to its own care and plans for development. I am very sure that it is for the best interest of the cause that such a blunder as that at Nenana do not again occur.

I will not reach my office in Juneau until about the middle of October and so, much to my regret, will not be able to be in Spokane for the meeting of Synod. I trust, therefore, that in so far as Synodical action may affect the matter, you will make such representations as will conserve the best interests of our Home Mission Work in Alaska. The Presbyteries as such have not been consulted in the new departure. It is my understanding that they will be heard from as soon as the fall meetings are held in opposition to the entrance of the S.S.Board on the basis of operation which seems to be at present adopted, viz, reduplication of Home Mission methods and objects.

If you can do anything with the Sunday School Board, also, or in representing the matter to our own Home Mission Board, I would much appreciate it.

Very sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

OCT 3 1917 10/4/17
PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

Ruby, Alaska, 9/4/'17

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

My dear Dr. Dixon:

I am herewith enclosing a copy of a letter which I am this day sending to Mr. Somerndike of the Sunday School Board.

I am also furnishing a copy to Mr. J.A. Gould, of Seattle, member of our Board from the Pacific Northwest.

The question of the relations of the two Boards will come (of Washington) up in Synod. I am very thoroughly convinced that there should be at this time a definite understanding between the two Boards as to the work in Alaska. The Nenana experience should not be duplicated. If the S.S. Board is to remain in Alaska, then, there should be a definite understanding between the Boards as to the activities of each. The representative of the S.S. Board in Alaska, Dr. F.L. Forbes, told me that he came to Nenana under telegraphic instructions from his Board. It would seem that the S.S. Board would hardly have given such instructions had it been known in Philadelphia that the Home Board was so soon to send its Alaska representative to Nenana with a missionary for permanent occupancy. There was no occasion whatever for the expense necessary to bring the S.S. representative to Nenana just before the coming of the representatives of the Home Board. I trust that all this may be at this time adjusted so as to avoid such mistakes in the future.

Very cordially yours,

James H. Condit

OCT 3 1917

(Copy)

Ruby, Alaska, Sept. 4, 1917

Mr. J. M. Somerndike,
Witherapoon building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Somerndike:

Under date October 9, 1916, I received a communication from you relative to the entry of the Sunday School Board into Alaska and the sending of a missionary under your auspices.

On October 28, 1916, in my reply to the same I wrote as follows:

"In my judgement there can be no question as to the desirability of such a missionary in Alaska. I only wish that there might be a number of them. Our Home Board has often had before them the plea of men on the field for itinerating missionaries to reach the isolated places and districts with too sparse a population to warrant placing missionaries for all of their time"

In accordance with a plan which has been under way for over a year I recently arrived in Nenana, Alaska, accompanied by the Rev. M. J. Biven and family, who came to establish a permanent mission at Nenana under the auspices of our Home Board.

Upon arrival we found there the Rev. F. L. Forbes, D. D., the representative of your Board, who had been in Nenana some eight weeks. I have known Dr. Forbes for a number of years and esteem him highly. It was a matter of regret to me that I did not see him when he passed through Juneau on his way to the Interior but I was absent from the city at the time.

I found the following:

Dr. Forbes had purchased a lot for a church with funds raised locally, had material on the ground for beginning building operations and some work toward a building was already done.

He was recognized as the representative of the Presbyterian Church in the place, and, as must be the case with his genial personality, was well entrenched in the esteem and affections of the community. One lady, when told that Dr. Biven had come to remain permanently in the place as minister, expressed her regret that Dr. Forbes must go. A number of times the question was raised with me in conversation as to the plan of sending a man so far for so temporary a ministry to be followed so soon by the coming of another representative of the Board with a permanent missionary.

This incident has opened a question as to the province of the Sunday School Board and its work in Alaska in relation to the Home Board. It is very important, to my mind, that this question be now discussed and adjusted.

In my letter of October 28th in which I approved of the plan of sending a Sunday School missionary into Alaska I had in mind a man or men who would be "itinerating missionaries" visiting the "isolated places and districts with too sparse a population to warrant placing

missionaries for all of their time". Nenana does not come under such head but is a permanent and now well established town. Also, it has been the plan of the Home Mission Board to occupy Nenana permanently with missionary and church equipment, for a year or more back. It was a part of the plan that I should accompany such missionary to assist in his establishment on the field. In carrying out this plan, after arriving on the field, I found it necessary to reject the site selected for a church edifice by Dr. Forbes and also the plan of building which he had made. The site was very undesirable and the building planned did not meet our requirements. The plan of raising the necessary funds and of carrying out the whole project of church erection was not in accord with my ideas as to how such an enterprise should be managed.

In coming into Nenana I was confronted with a most embarrassing situation. On the one hand I could not approve of the lot, plan of building and plan for raising the funds and carrying on the work. I represented the Board which is responsible for the work of permanent organization and for the necessary funds for such organization and must act in accord with my own best judgement accordingly.

On the other hand was the necessity of avoiding any unpleasant opposition to local plans or complications with the sentiment which Dr. Forbes had created.

I believe that no such unpleasant results followed although it was only due to the fact that Dr. Forbes, Dr. Biven and I are long time friends and after frank consultation determined that at all hazards we must not allow any unfortunate condition as to our respective duties and relations to interfere with the work.

But the larger question already raised is raised by this incident at Nenana in such a way as to demand adjustment. I can not understand why Dr. Forbes should be sent to Nenana to accomplish the identical work which the Home Mission Board had planned directly for that field and which it has been doing in Alaska from the beginning of mission work in the Territory on a general scale. Why should there be two agencies of the same Church at the same place to accomplish the identically same mission? In the founding of a mission at Nenana, the projecting of plans for a building and the organization of a mission on a permanent basis I, as Superintendent of the Home Mission Board's work in Alaska, would much have preferred to lay my own foundations. There was no necessity of another agency coming in there for such a purpose and such a coming under other conditions than those which I have outlined might easily have seriously injured the whole scheme. It was the right of the Home Board to profit by the prestige which first occupancy gives and to be received and accepted as the agency of the Presbyterian Church for the organization of its permanent missions in Alaska.

In my letter of October 28, 1916, I had no thought of the Sunday School entering Alaska to duplicate the work of the Home Board? My idea of its mission was as above suggested, viz, to organize Sunday Schools, to visit isolated communities otherwise unreached and to touch the lives of the miners and prospectors who would otherwise be without any religious influence. It was my thought that such missionaries would be men able to compete with the miner and prospector in "pushing" over the trail and would be travelling representatives of the Church. This would be a most acceptable ministry.

but if it be the purpose of the S.S. Board in Alaska to duplicate the work of the Home Board in establishing missions, building churches, and otherwise effecting permanent organization, then I must protest against such a plan as tending to confusion of effort and confusion in plans and in the minds of the communities affected. It also impresses me as being an unwise use of funds on the ground that one agency can better and more economically accomplish the work of the church along this line.

The Home Board has been the pioneering agency in Alaska from the beginning and is not only willing but also desirous of continuing as such. It would seem better to continue the work which it has been doing under its own administration. As yet there is no field in Alaska which compares with those in the states which have been in the past served by the S.S. Board. Alaska has comparatively few families and no communities of settlers such as are found in our western states. There is no field, as yet, for Sunday School organization and pedagogical oversight.

If, accepting this condition, the S.S. Board is willing to enter Alaska to accomplish the work which is not at present being done, viz, that of reaching isolated communities and people by means of itinerating missionaries, then as I have before intimated there is a place for such men. If the work of the S.S. Board is to be of the character illustrated at Kenana, then I must protest against such because it is a reduplication of the work of the Home Mission Board and can only result in confusion.

In so representing I am moved by the one consideration of efficiency and economy of missionary administration.

Very sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

END

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Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work

Sabbath-School and Missionary Department

REV. ALEXANDER HENRY, D.D., SECRETARY

M. S. COLLINGWOOD, TREASURER

J. M. SOMERNDIKE, SUPT. OF MISSIONS

WITHERSPOON BUILDING, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

September 5, 1917.

Rev. John Dixon, D. D.,

156 Fifth Avenue,

New York City, N.Y.

My dear Doctor Dixon:-

We have been very much surprised and grieved at the attitude which has suddenly been assumed by Dr. Condit, your representative in Alaska, with reference to the entrance of our Board into the Alaska field. We are at a loss to understand Dr. Condit's sudden opposition to our Board having any part in the Alaska work, especially since he expressed his approval when the matter was first taken up with him last Fall. At any rate he took advantage of the meeting of Yukon Presbytery, of which he is a member, as well as the Stated Clerk, to obtain the passage of a resolution - a protest. While we have the greatest respect for the brethren of the five churches in Yukon Presbytery, two of which are native churches, it hardly seems that an action of this kind, taken by less than a half dozen men, should be considered a sufficient reason for us to withdraw from the Alaska field, especially since the protest which they have made is based entirely upon Dr. Condit's own definition of the functions of our Board, to which we do not agree.

I wrote to Dr. Condit under date of August 14th, reviewing the entire situation, and for your information I am enclosing a copy of my letter. Dr. Condit's action is without precedent. I think we have never had a similar case in the history of our work, and I cannot but feel that Dr. Condit has placed himself in a very unfortunate position in opposing the entrance of any additional workers in the Presbyterian Church into the Alaska field, except as they come under his direction and supervision. You need no assurance as to our motive in entering the Alaska field, and I am quite sure that if Dr. Condit would show a spirit of cooperation, such as your missionaries throughout the

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Rev. R. R. Marquis, Basin
Prof. Henry M. Steidley, Box 513, Laramie

States have shown during all these years, and which has been the means of accomplishing such splendid results, our Alaska Sunday-school Missionary could be very helpfully used in the development of Presbyterianism in that territory.

Dr. Condit has placed himself in the position of opposing one of the regularly authorized agencies of the Church in the prosecution of its legitimate work, and it would appear from his letters to Dr. Forbes, and from the action of Yukon Presbytery, that he is attempting to close the Alaska field to the activities of any of the Church agencies, excepting the one which he represents. Since you expressed your approval of our entrance into Alaska, besides promising your cordial cooperation, he is misrepresenting you. Your Board has always welcomed the services of the Sabbath-school Missionaries in every field in which the two Boards are authorized to work. There has never been any departure from this policy; it would seem therefore that Dr. Condit has misinterpreted the attitude of the Home Mission Board toward the work of Sabbath-school Missions, in opposing the entrance of a Sabbath-school Missionary into Alaska. We do not believe that the Synod of Washington, or that the Church as a whole, would sustain Dr. Condit in the attitude he has assumed regarding this matter, and I fear that if he persists in his present course it may result in injuring himself as well as the Alaska work.

I have been carefully considering the subject, and it seems to me that before Dr. Condit goes any further he ought to be reminded by your Board, under whose commission he labors, that our Board has a perfect right to enter Alaska, and that your Board pledged its cooperation, and that one of his duties as a field representative of the Home Mission Board is to cooperate in the most cordial Christian manner with the representative of any of the other agencies of the Church who may be sent to that field. Your wide experience will dictate the wisest method of dealing with this case. We regret Dr. Condit's action very much, especially because we fear that it may be interpreted as the attitude of the Home Board, which I have every assurance is not the case. His action will be vigorously opposed, I am sure, by Mr. Andrew Stevenson, and other progressive men in Alaska, who earnestly urged our Board to enter that field.

Feeling confident that you will appreciate the importance of giving this matter your early attention, I am,

Very cordially yours,

M. J. McManis

SEP 19 1917

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS

OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

JAMES L. MCBRIDE
MISSIONARY

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA Sept. 5th 1917

The Rev. John Dixon, D.D.

New York.

Dear Doctor Dixon:

I inclose a copy of my letter to Dr. Forbes in response to a letter which he sent me by last mail. It seems to call for a reply. You will gather from the letter that I side with Dr. Condit in the position that he has taken and this has been done without any conference between us.

I am exceedingly glad that Dr. Condit was enabled to make the tour of review about the Synod. It cannot fail to help the work.

I am alone now and am anxiously waiting for the time for me to go out on my vacation. I need it. And I am very thankful that Dr. Young is arranging an itinerary for me. I want to assure you that I will do my very best as a representative of the Board.

The work here is going the same as usual - there are no mountain tops - but neither are there any bottomless pits.

May I say frankly that it had become a real question with Mrs. McBride and myself as to whether we should return to Alaska when our real vacation time came? Perhaps the stimulus from the Outside would have sent us back anyway.

Very Sincerely Yours,

James L. McBride

M

September 21, 1917.

Rev. James L. McBride,

Anchorage, Alaska.

My dear Mr. McBride:-

Thank you very heartily for your letter of September the fifth enclosing a copy of your letter to Dr. W. O. Forbes. Its spirit is fine! Its judgment I have little doubt is also sound. Yet, I must remember that I am several thousand miles away from the situation and it requires no modesty on my part to defer absolutely to the judgment of yourself and to the others who have personally canvassed the field.

The Sabbath-School Board is somewhat exercised over the fact that their representative's work has been adversely criticized by the Presbytery of Yukon. I have suggested to that Board that they and we wait until the two Alaskan Presbyteries have taken such action as may seem to them best. That will be the better time for the Board to give mutual consideration to the matter, if indeed such a necessity should arise.

My heart sank within me when in your kindness as well as frankness you stated that it was possible that you and Mrs. McBride might not return to Alaska. Dr. Young informs me, however, that this has been reconsidered and your expectation is to return to your field of labor. You and Mrs. McBride have done such splendid work that it would be ^awell-nigh irreparable loss to have you leave Alaska; but in this as in all other matters I pray that you and we may be guided from Above.

Cordially yours,

SEP 19 1917

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS

OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

JAMES L. MCBRIDE
MISSIONARY

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA Sept. 5th 1917

Rev. W. O. Forbes, D.D.

Seattle, Wash.

My dear Doctor Forbes:

Your letter dated Aug. 24th, reached me yesterday.

It perhaps might have been better if I had waited to confer with Dr. Condit who will be here within three weeks time, before replying. But on the whole it seems to that if I write now you will know that you have my own unbiased judgment in the matter which your letter laid before me.

Unfortunately I have before me neither my letters from the Home Board nor from the Sunday School Board nor have I the letter which I wrote as answer to the inquiry concerning my opinion in the matter of the Sunday School Board's initiating work in Alaska. But doubtless you have received a copy of all these exchanges. Let me say however, that I stated very plainly that I could see no real need for the Sunday School Board's entering Alaska at this time and I gave my reasons for my convictions. Briefly the chief reason was that the time is not yet come when the two agencies of the church can do the work up here as effectively as one. I may say that I never received a letter of inquiry or response which I invited and I never knew another item of the matter ~~at hand~~ until I read in the paper that Dr. Forbes had been sent as a missionary to Alaska. I of course take no exception to what has been done knowing as I do that we all cannot take the same view of conditions here or elsewhere. I simply thought that I had found myself in the minority and I have learned to keep quiet when mine is a minority position.

But it would be altogether unwise did I not restate my position to you in response to your letter. Briefly-I will gladly welcome any agency that comes in the name of Christ to the mission work in Alaska, and much more gladly will I welcome the missionary representatives of my own church if it seems best to the majority to send such representatives here. But I do without antagonism or feeling of any kind question the wisdom of this latter action. The reasons are these. The population of Alaska has gathered itself about certain centers separated from each other by vast distances made longer still by the inadequacy of transportation. Each center itself has but a limited population which can be ministered to, with all its contributing areas by the resident missionary in that field. In a population which provided too much for such a single representative you will find that other denominations have crowded in as they have here and elsewhere with the result that many a field-using the term many in a limited sense are already on the sectarian-competitive basis. In my own field there is sufficient to keep me busy all the time for I have fought off as well as I could the overreaching of the field. Mr. Hughes with a residence at Katamuk is

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS

OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

JAMES L. MCBRIDE
MISSIONARY

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

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reaching out to population wherever it is found between Cook's Inlet and Broad Pass and up the Matanuska. It would be, it seems to me, an unwise investment of mission funds to send another man to do any itinerating work in this particular section. I know also by personal acquaintance that the Cordova field should be because of population and transportation facilities reach 500 miles into the interior. I myself established schools and congregations at Chitina and McCarthy. Mr. Shriver regularly reaches these points and also McNecott where there were no children in my own pastorate there but where Mr. Shriver established a school and maintains one today. I believe that the Fairbanks country is or could be handled in the same way, so with Ruby, so with Umanak. There is still one section, the Iditarod, where neither we nor any other denomination has a representative and where one should be located as soon as possible.

From my analysis of the field I can only gather that the Sunday School Board can do exactly the same work that the Home Board is so vigorously carrying on. It must necessarily enter upon a local evangelistic work and nothing besides. Any factor that would perhaps lead to a divided responsibility should be eliminated. If the representatives of the Sunday School Board can be made answerable to the same directing agency as we, then very well and good. But if not then we are but adding to that burden which already weighs heavily upon the successful prosecution of the work in Alaska and which will weigh more heavily still as the population increases. So far as I can ascertain the geography of Alaska there are natural barriers which will forbid the entrance of population to hook up the centers already existing or which will exist. Some method ought to be devised which will insure for the men of one denomination the opportunity to meet regularly with each other for reasons which are only too patent to us here in the North. And as soon as possible there ought to be a conference of the denominations represented in Alaska to make such an effective grouping possible. I want my church to be an army in Alaska, with its divisions closely in touch with each and not a divided force of no assistance to each other and rendered all the weaker by deprivation of those points of contact which are absolutely necessary to success either in church work or in military affairs. I repeat therefore that if the entrance of the Sunday School Board into Alaska will add to this hoped for organization then come, or rather stay, but if it adds a separate agency, answerable to a different directive agency I question the wisdom of the policy. And I repeat that in the Presbytery of Yukon-I know ~~nothing~~ nothing of Alaska Presbytery- it is impossible for you to do work of a nature different from that already carried on by the Home Board.

In regard to the Sunday School at Le Touche, I may say that the Christian church claims that territory and it is again wintered to ^{my} Mr. Munro, the missionary of that church at Teward. He has fewer people to deal with in Teward and their number

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS

OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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MISSIONARY

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

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3

demands that he shall reach out to La Touche and minister there or else fail to make a sufficient use of his time. Mr. Munro is ambitious and a good man. There is also a Methodist church and an Episcopalian at Seward with missionaries at their head. I would consider it unwise for our church to claim any part of that territory or in the Kenai peninsula.

But there is a work in Alaska which I believe your Board can do and which I would like to see you do. It can be made effective from the very beginning altho results may not be at first of a tangible character and in the years to come it will have proved itself to be a great foundation stone for Presbyterianism in the North. If your brother is anything like you I believe that he would be a capital man for the job. If you would care to have me write you in regard to it, I will most gladly do so. It will cost some money but I believe that of all missionary projects in Alaska, money could be most easily raised for its support. I am to begin my vacation the last of Jan and if you should care to take up the matter then or before I will do anything in my power to assist.

Our own school is in splendid shape, and up to the beginning of Summer average 150 it has fallen to about 125 but already is beginning to pick up. We have a splendid Young People's Society. And the other services have held their own with a slight increase at the morning service. We have a very good children's choir of twelve voices for the morning service. I give them a special little sermon every two weeks. I have seen as many as 433 children at the service. We will soon be out of debt also. The Board has a splendid property here, representing far more money than has been put into it and is attractive, substantial, and I may say an envy to the other churches here. As for myself I have come to the stage where I can do a little real pastoral work having gotten where I can give up the mucking etc.

I will go over and get you one of the Sunday School pictures this afternoon. It was taken when the thermometer stood at 24 below and there were just 124 in attendance that day.

Mrs. McBride often speaks of your visit up here. She fell quite in love with your wife and also with yourself. Better come up again and I will find a higher hill to climb.

I think that I know you well enough to understand that you will attribute no spirit of hostility or criticism to the work of the Board in Alaska. I have thought of your letter and in my reply have given my opinion as a friend and coworker who happens perhaps to differ from you in a matter of policy, if I understand your policy correctly.

With all kind regards to yourself and Mrs. Forbes, I am
Sincerely Yours,

M

September 6, 1917.

Mr. J. M. Somerndike,
Witherspoon Building,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of September the fifth enclosing a copy of your letter of August the fourteenth to Dr. Condit is here in Dr. Dixon's absence. Your letter will be placed in his file for attention upon his return, which is expected about September the eighteenth.

Sincerely,

For Dr. Dixon.

Presbyterian Sabbath School Missions

SYNOD OF WASHINGTON

REV. W. O. FORBES, D. D., SYNODICAL SUPERINTENDENT

1007 EAST MARION

SEATTLE, WASH.

9/11/17.

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.
New York City.

My dear Dr. Dixon:-

Some months ago I sent you a copy of my survey of Alaska made during the months of June and July of last year to ascertain the Sunday school conditions and to determine the wisdom of sending a S.S. Missionary to work in that field.

In reply to this you gave your hearty approval and bade us welcome to sharing with the Home Board the privilege of planting the gospel in that far-away mission field. I also sent copies of my survey to six key-men in Alaska-four of them missionaries on the field, another Andrew Stevenson of Skagway, and the other Dr. Condit. To all these Mr. Somerndike addressed inquiries to ascertain if they were in accord with my recommendations, and upon your own hearty welcome and the favorable response of these men on the field, and after almost a year's consideration and searching for a man, the Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work commissioned a missionary to the field and set him to work the middle of May. I sought to have him meet Dr. Condit en route, and wrote him for an appointment that they might consult together and plan together for the work, but unfortunately, Dr. Condit came out to Seattle at that time and they met each other on the way without seeing each other.

Up to this time we had a perfect understanding, and I had a talk with Dr. Condit over the phone while here in Seattle at that time, and when he expressed regret that he could not be in Juneau to meet Dr. F. L. Forbes, our missionary.

After his return, however, he wrote asking the purpose of our work and questioning the wisdom of it, as it seemed to him that it would be an economical and strategical error, and that he was contemplating taking it up with the two Boards and with the Presbyteries in Alaska. I replied to him (a copy of which I enclose). Replying to this Dr. Condit stated that he had decided to take the matter up with all concerned with a view of having our work discontinued on the ground of its being only a duplication of his work, and he preferred to do it in their own way and keep the prestige of doing it themselves, and at the same time avoid confusion and misunderstanding. To this I replied (a copy of which I enclose), and also Mr. Somerndike made reply more fully.

But now I understand that he has changed his plans for the winter and is coming out to definitely oppose our work. I am writing to ask if it is not possible for you to avoid this controversy until we have all had a chance to find ourselves in this work and get together in harmonious cooperation. The initial expense has been too great and the sacrifice of a man who left a great work will be so great and the field is so great and so varied and so needy that I am sure the cause of Christ will suffer along with the workers, and I can assure you that I can find work for our missionary for years without Dr. Condit or any of the H. M. ever seeing him or coming across his path if that were desirable. Please help us out if possible, and let us

the necessity of bringing this up before Synod
avoid the necessity of bringing this up before Synod
as I understand Dr. Condit means to do.

Yours Sincerely,
W. O. Forbes

Two Enclosures

M

September 20, 1917.

Mr. J. M. Somerndike,
Witherspoon Building,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

My dear Brother:--

I found your letter of September the fifth awaiting me upon my return to the office. I need not assure the Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work that the Home Board can be counted upon at all times and under all circumstances to work in cordial cooperation with them. This was in my mind in replying to your inquiry some time ago concerning the entrance of the Sabbath-School Board into Alaska. Evidently not only the coming of Dr. Forbes into Alaska, but his action at Nenana is calling forth a good deal of criticism. Frankly, I do not understand how your representative felt authorized to purchase, or, at least, to enter into negotiations for the purchase of ground, and begin the erection of a building before our Superintendent and missionary appointed to the place had reached there. All this, however, may be satisfactorily explained by Dr. Forbes in his own good time. I do not see that it would be wise for us to interfere with the progress of events there until the two Presbyteries in Alaska have acted, if they desire to do so.

Then, knowing their mind perhaps a satisfactory solution can be reached, which I assure you is the sincere desire of the Board of Home Missions.

With heartiest good wishes I am,
Cordially yours,

M

September 20, 1917.

Rev. W. O. Forbes, D.D.,
1007 East Marion,
Seattle, Washington.

My dear Dr. Forbes:-

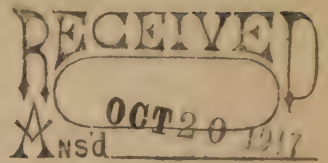
Your letter of September the eleventh is received. I am very sorry for the complication which has arisen in Alaska over the entrance of the Sabbath-School Board. I take it, however, that the Presbyteries have an indisputable right to confer concerning any Board entering and doing work within their bounds.

I have just written Mr. Somerndike in reply to a letter from him that I think it better for the two Boards to wait until the Presbyteries have taken action, if they intend to do so. I have found pleasure in assuring Mr. Somerndike that the Board of Home Missions can always be counted upon to work in sincere and hearty cooperation with the Sabbath-School Board.

Very sincerely yours,

Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work

Sabbath-School and Missionary Department



REV. ALEXANDER HENRY, D.D., SECRETARY

M. S. COLLINGWOOD, TREASURER

J. M. SOMERNDIKE, SUPT. OF MISSIONS

WITHERSPOON BUILDING, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

October 3, 1917.

Rev. J. H. Condit, D. D.,

Juneau,

Alaska.

PLEASE RETURN TO
JAMES H. CONDIT
JUNEAU, ALASKA.

My dear Doctor Condit:-

Your letter of September 4th has just reached me. Of course we have been very much chagrined to note that the work which Dr. Forbes did at Nenana, in preparation for the coming of Dr. Diven, did not meet with your approval. If Dr. Forbes had known before he went to Nenana that you did not want him to undertake any work in that field, and if you had explained to him just what your plans were, I am sure that there would have been no difficulty at all. However, Dr. Forbes made special efforts to confer with you as soon as he arrived in Alaska, writing to you before he left Seattle, and wiring again from Wrangel while enroute, only to find when he arrived that you had left two days before to attend a convention in Vancouver, without leaving any message for him. As you know, he waited in Juneau a week hoping to see you, and then wrote to you from Skagway, asking for an outline of your plans. He heard from you about the second week in July, or the first of August, stating that you would arrive in Nenana about the middle of August, or the first of September, with Dr. Diven, to place in charge of the Nenana field. Finding upon his arrival in Nenana that an effort was about to be made by the representatives of the Episcopal Church to start a work, and having a very natural zeal for the Presbyterian Church, Dr. Forbes felt that it was necessary to seize the opportunity at once and get a foothold for our denomination. He is of the opinion that if he had not taken hold of the work at that time the Episcopal Church would have preempted the field and there would have been no good reason for the Presbyterian Church attempting any work there.

This is our explanation of Dr. Forbes' action and we feel that since there was not the slightest motive of usurpation of prerogatives, but simply a desire to do what we have done in thousands of cases in other fields, where the necessity arose, the representatives of the Home Mission Board would be very grateful for the assistance rendered. Will you permit me to say that I think that you are unnecessarily alarmed about the prestige which you feel that Dr. Forbes gained for himself in his efforts in Nenana. I am quite sure that the esteem of the people for Dr. Forbes would simply serve to strengthen their confidence in the Presbyterian denomination, and at the same time it would prepare the way for a cordial reception for Dr. Diven; nor do I feel that the inquiries which you state were made as to why the temporary worker preceded the permanent representative, should be construed as criticisms, or regarded as furnishing a reason why this preliminary work should not be done.

However, aside from the Nenana work, I wish to reassure you as to the functions of our Board in Alaska. We sent Dr. Forbes to Alaska to do the itinerant missionary work, visiting isolated places, and districts too sparsely settled to warrant the placing of permanent Home Missionaries in charge. We want him to work among the miners and the prospectors, and to be the traveling representative of our Church, and of course we expect him to cooperate with the Home Mission forces, holding himself in readiness to meet emergencies, reviving work which may be declining because of the lack of pastoral care, and helping in every possible way to advance the interests of the Kingdom as a representative of the Presbyterian denomination.

As I stated in my previous letter we can see no reason for any friction between the Home Mission forces in Alaska and Dr. Forbes. When Christian men get together to plan for the work of the Kingdom in a field which presents so many needs as Alaska, there ought to be no difficulty at all in planning the work in such a way as to avoid overlapping. You are both representatives of the Presbyterian Church. At such a great distance from headquarters you are both clothed with authority to plan the work in a way that seems best for the progress of the Kingdom. It is unthinkable, from my viewpoint at least, that there should be any friction at all, or even any misunderstanding.

Very cordially yours, *M. L. Somerville*

I.

October 4, 1917.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,

Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:-

I received your letter of September the fourth dated at Ruby, with a copy of the letter which you have written to Mr. Hornardike. As I have already written you, I think, it seems to us best to wait until the two Presbyteries in Alaska have taken action, if they desire to do so. Then, when we are informed as to what that action is, the Home Board and the Sabbath School Board will get together.

We have just received a telegram from Mr. McBride as follows:-

"Condit not here Hughes resigned Works shutting down Trail travel expensive Advise Shriver in Anchorage for winter take Hughes place in spring can send good man Cordova Must do this before freezeup cheapest can come out immediately after presbytery and work for you Cable reply immediately Send expense account."

We expect to use Mr. McBride in the campaign for one million and a half dollars, but our judgment is that to bring him out now would take him altogether too long away from his work at Anchorage, and that if he comes out in January that will be sufficient for our campaign purposes; and even that will take him away practically six months from his field. This involves Shriver's remaining at Cordova. If in the judgment of yourself and the Home Mission Committee any changes are necessary, we will expect to hear from you in due season.

We have not yet seen Hughes, but as he is not going back we will do what we can to find someone to take his place. We, of course, count upon you to do what you can to locate the right kind of a man.

(over)

OCT 15 1917 *1917*

J. A. Gould,
Chairman, Seattle.
Rev. O. T. Mather,
Secretary, Tacoma.

Home Mission Committee

SYNOD OF WASHINGTON
OF THE

Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

J. A. GOULD, Chairman,
807 American Bank Building

Rev. Jas. M. Wilson
N. B. Challacombe
Rev. W. J. Sharp
W. B. Dudley
Rev. A. H. Chittenden, Ph. D.
Hugh McMaster
Rev. O. T. Mather
J. A. Hays
R. A. Van der Laas, D. D.
J. A. Gould
Rev. Conrad Bluhm
R. L. Edmiston
Rev. J. A. Laurie
Geo. D. Brown
Rev. D. H. Hare
S. A. Manning

Committee

Wm
Seattle, October 9, 1917.

Wm
Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Doctor Dixon:

Rev James H. Condit made complaint to the writer against the activities of the missionary of our Sunday School Board in Alaska, Rev. F. L. Forbes. As I was moderator of the Synod, also chairman of our Synod Home Mission Committee, I assumed that this was a complaint for the action of our Synod Home Mission Committee and at a meeting of our Committee and hearing from the representatives from Alaska and in the letters that Dr. Condit had sent the writer the following action was taken by our Committee, to wit:

"Whereas, The Superintendent of Home Missions for Alaska objects to the Sunday School Board sending Sunday School Missionaries to Alaska for various reasons, and Whereas, at the request of the Presbyteries in Alaska, the Home Mission Work in Alaska is under the special control of the Board of Home Missions we would therefore recommend that the complaint of the Sup't of Home Missions be referred to the Board of Home Missions without recommendation."

Condit
and I am now passing the letter of Dr. Condit on to you. Since his letter was written to me I understand the situation has cleared up and that the Sunday School Missionary is supplying a Home Mission Church or a Home Mission field at this time and that the friction between the two representatives has about ceased to exist. It might be possible for us to use the Sunday School Board to take care of some of the Home Mission work in Alaska which Dr. F. L. Forbes seems to be willing to do. I am

Very truly yours,

JAG/b

J. A. Gould

I

October 15, 1917.

Mr. J. A. Gould,
307 American Bank Building,
Seattle, Washington.

My dear Mr. Gould:-

Yours of October the ninth is received,
enclosing Dr. Condit's letter, and also giving us an extract
from the Minutes of the Synod. I am glad to know that the
situation seems to be clearer and my hope is that when the
time comes for us to take the matter up with the Sunday School
Board that the blue sky will be visible in every part of the
heavens.

Dr. Marquis is busy visiting both Western
and Eastern Synods. He is now away from the office. The last
word from Mr. Olin is that he seems to be growing slowly weaker.
Morphine has to be administered quite frequently which results
in his mind being a little cloudy at times.

With best wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

CT 25 1917 10/26/17

Board of Publication and S. S. Work
1319 WALNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA

REV. ALEXANDER HENRY, D. D. SECRETARY
J. M. SOMERNDIKE SUPT. S. S. MISSIONS

See Reverse Side For Reply.

Presbyterian Sabbath School Missions

SYNOD OF WASHINGTON

REV. W. O. FORBES, D. D., SYNODICAL SUPERINTENDENT

1007 EAST MARION

SEATTLE, WASH.

Oct. 20th, 1917.

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Dixon:-

Replying to your favor of the 20th of September re the Alaska situation, I agree with you that the prebyteries have the primary rights in all matters of work within their bounds, and this we recognized from the beginning. However we were told that the presbyteries were not organized along S.S. lines, that there were no S.S. Committees, and so we could not confer with them in that way. I did confer with Dr. Condit personally and by letter at frequent intervals, as well as with nearly every missionary in Alaska and with the H.M. Coms. in both Presbyteries, and honestly thought we had, not *only* their good will, but their enthusiastic support. But we did not proceed till my survey was submitted to you and to all the key-men of Alaska and had their replies, and still we had every reason to think we would be welcomed and supported in an effort to help plant the gospel in the great Northland.

I am delighted to report, however, that as I now understand, we are on common ground again, and that our missionary is now, at Dr. Condit's request, making Ruby his headquarters for the winter, or until you find a missionary to take up the work, and will work Ruby and vicinity (a mighty big vicinity) in the meantime as a missionary base. This is in accord with one of the suggestions I made to Dr. Condit in answer to his question as to our idea of cooperation in the Alaska field. I don't anticipate any further misunderstanding, and, if I can help it (and I'm sure I can) there will be no further occasion for friction. As it is, the Nenana case came out all right, and Mr. Diven is in a better situation than he could possibly be for the winter had the preliminary work not been done, and we were there in time to preempt the ground, which seems to *me* was desirable. Dr. Condit took our Missionary's second choice of lots, added four feet ~~xxx~~ to the length of the building and, with the money already raised, your Missionary was enabled to proceed at once to the erection of a suitable Church and Manse for the winter. -- So all's well, I suppose, that ends well. Thanking you for your interest I am,

Yours Sincerely,

W. O. Forbes
I may say that I concurred in the action of Synodical Com. *W. O. Forbes*

I.

October 26, 1917.

Rev. W. O. Forbes, D.D.,
1007 East Marion,
Seattle, Wash.

My dear Dr. Forbes:-

I am much pleased to get your kind letter of October the twentieth. I sincerely hope that the trouble which has arisen in Alaska may be speedily and satisfactorily settled. I fear that you are a little too optimistic about Mr. Diven being in a better situation in Nenana because of what was done before Dr. Condit and himself reached that place. A recent communication from Mr. Diven sets forth his embarrassment because of it. This was not intended on his part as a complaint nor to be made public.

With best wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

Copy

October 20th, 1917

Mr. J. M. Somerndike,

Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Somerndike:

Your letter of August 14th relative to the entrance of the Sabbath School Board into Alaska reached me at Anchorage October 1st. Since the first of August I have travelled over 6000 miles in the interest of our Home Mission Work in the interior of Alaska and have been out of touch with my office and mail.

Since my arrival in Juneau, three days ago, I have received your communication of October 3d.

I am herewith enclosing the report of the Sabbath School Committee to the Presbytery of Yukon with the supplemental report of the Special Committee to consider the same. You have already received a copy of the first which was sent to you before the Presbytery meeting in order that you might have it for as early consideration as possible. It has now been formally presented to Presbytery and adopted together with the supplemental report.

Before taking up the items of your letters I wish to say in a general way that my protest, and that of the two Alaskan Presbyteries, was not to the entry of a Sabbath School missionary into Alaska who should do the work which we understood your Board contemplated. Contrary to your representation, there is no inconsistency between my letter of October 28th, 1916, in which I commend the plan of sending a man, or men, who should be "itinerating missionaries to reach the isolated places and districts with too sparse a population to warrant placing missionaries for all of their time". In the light of that which has transpired, and which so well illustrates the danger of confusion when two agencies of the church attempt to accomplish the identical mission, I am now inclined to take the position that the plan of your Board to enter Alaska at this time through field workers is unwise.

I am not "strenuously objecting to our endeavors to further the work of extending the Kingdom in Alaska" as by your letter. My protest is to your plan of duplicating the work of the Home Board, or, as in the instance at Nenana, which furnishes so excellent an illustration of the point in hand, of anticipating a work already planned and actually under way. Such work on the part of the Sabbath School Board will not be in the interest of the Kingdom in Alaska.

Nenana is not an "isolated" place. It does not have "too sparse a population to warrant placing missionaries for all of their time". It was, and is, a field ripe for permanent organization and the Home Mission Board for a year back has been perfecting plans for its occupancy on a permanent basis. There was no reason why your representative should hasten to this field a few weeks before the time set for the coming of myself and the missionary commissioned for that work to do preliminary work. It was not because he did not know that we were proposing to enter Nenana in a few weeks because he was acquainted of the fact while in Juneau. There was no condition on the field which warranted him in buying a lot, placing material on the same for a church building, and drawing plans for a building and otherwise

Mr. J.M. Somerndike

permanently binding us to a program which upon investigation we found very poorly conceived. There is no merit in the argument that the Episcopal church were likely to pre-empt the field. The Episcopal church does not enter as a factor in comity agreements in Alaska and its entry would in no way affect our program even had such entry been seriously contemplated.

In each of your letters above referred to you call attention to the fact that Dr. Forbes attempted to confer with me while in Juneau. Yet Dr. Forbes told me that he was instructed by wire before leaving Seattle to proceed to Nenana at once. Of what possible avail would a conference have been as affecting a program already passed upon. Also, if it were considered essential that such conference be held, why was such not arranged in time so that my plans already made be not interfered with. I received no letter from Dr. F.L. Forbes informing me that he would expect to see me in Juneau. I did receive a letter from Dr. W.O. Forbes two days before my expected departure from Juneau on a mission which included attendance at the Odd Fellows Grand Lodge meeting but which also included Home Mission business of importance. This letter was the first intimation I had received since my correspondence of a year before that the Sabbath School Board was planning to enter Alaska. Dr. F.L. Forbes' telegram did not reach me until after my return from Seattle. He did not wait a week in Juneau expecting to see me because he knew very well that I could not possibly return in one week or two and was informed fully as to that. In so far as his subsequent letters are concerned I answered them promptly as received.

Again, Rev. James L. McBride, Rev. A.G. Shriver, Rev. Robt. A. Buchanan and Mr. Andrew Stevenson do not approve of the work which your Board is now undertaking in Alaska if the Nenana effort is to be considered as illustrative of the work proposed. I know this by personal interviews with all but Mr. Buchanan and have his opinion as expressed in his letter to the clerk of Alaska Presbytery. I would suggest that you determine their attitude by farther correspondence, should you deem it wise to have their confirmation of my position.

I may say plainly that I would much have preferred at Nenana to have laid the foundations for our work there myself. As I have indicated the lot which Dr. Forbes selected and purchased was worthless for our purposes. I have a recent letter from our Mr. Diven in which he says that of the \$100 which Dr. Forbes paid for the lot he will be pleased if he can recover \$30, this latter being the appraised value of the lot by the government town site commission. The plan for a church which he had drawn was entirely inadequate. Yet, if the Home Mission representatives had not arrived in time the Home Board and the Board of Church Erection would have been bound to a site and building, and the paying for the same, which were in no way acceptable either to myself or to the missionary who accompanied me.

I wish to say plainly that Dr. Forbes accomplished nothing in Nenana which could not have been as well accomplished seven weeks later when we arrived to undertake the permanent organization according to previous plan.

Your reference to co-operation between the two Boards of Home Missions and Sabbath School Work in the Synod of Washington and other synods in the United States in the past thirty years does not apply to Alaskan conditions. First, because the Home Mission Board for thirty years has accomplished the work of the church in Alaska alone.¹ The Sabbath School Board has not heretofore attempted any co-operative work. Secondly, because conditions of settlement, population, travel, etc., in Alaska do not correspond with that existing in Washington or the states elsewhere. As I have

Mr. J.M. Somerndike

held from the first of our correspondence there is no present field for the Sabbath School Board in Alaska along the line of the organization and care of Sunday Schools alone which would justify the expense of a field representative. That work can be in the future as in the past, be better accomplished by the church agency already in the field until such time as conditions warrant the entrance of the Sabbath School Board for its special work.

I have been inclined to favor, as my correspondence indicates, the entry of the Sabbath School Board into Alaska, if its purpose be to reach isolated communities where the population is too sparse to warrant the Home Mission Board in placing missionaries there for all of their time. Good work can be done in Alaska along these lines by a man who is able to endure the hardships, physically, incident to such a mission in the wilds of Alaska, and who is commissioned to work along evangelistic lines as well as to organize Sunday Schools, and who is spiritually consecrated to such a hard task.

If the character of the work which your representative in Alaska is expected to do is properly illustrated by Dr. Forbes' mission in Nenana then I am opposed to the Sabbath School Board commissioning a field worker for Alaska. Such work can only result in confusion as has already occurred and is an unnecessary duplication of identical effort by agencies of the same church.

My position has not been affected by my interview with Dr. Forbes at Nenana but rather confirmed. In accordance with my suggestion he is now ministering to the mission at Ruby which at present is without a missionary since the removal of the last incumbent. There is a good work for Dr. Forbes to do there, without conflict, in carrying on our work already begun. Under present conditions the Home Mission Board will hardly send a man to Ruby. The field is needy and offers a field for evangelistic work such as Dr. Forbes will undoubtedly accomplish. He plans to visit the Iditarod later on, where Dr. Young was at one time in charge of our work. That field is also a needy one although there is no promise for its future which will warrant our Board in placing a man there permanently. It offers no foundation upon which to build a permanent work. Should conditions change the Home Mission Board will again commission a man to that work.

Hughes

I have before me an extract from your letter to our Rev. Mr. ~~Marble~~ in which (date not given) you say-

"I am afraid Dr. Condit is placing himself in a bad light by his attitude toward our entrance into Alaska. I would not want the church at large to know that a man in Dr. Condit's position would show such a spirit as he has exhibited toward another missionary agency of the General Assembly which is of a co-operative character. In all the thirty years of the history of this work we have co-operated heartily and cordially with Home Mission Superintendents and this is the first case of which I have any knowledge where one of the Home Missionary representatives has attempted to exclude our Board from any field. On the contrary they have been more than glad to have the assistance which our Board is able to give."

Regarding this expression to one of the men under my supervision I would suggest (1) That I am somewhat surprised that you should so unreservedly condemn me before you had heard my explanation of my position. This criticism was expressed before

I had been given an opportunity to write you relative to the situation as it developed. (2) While it would be unfortunate to have the church at large under the impression, either rightfully or wrongfully, that one of its agents was manifesting an unchristian spirit, such a consideration would not prevent me for one moment from taking a stand against any movement which I considered harmful to the Home Mission interests of Alaska. It would be very easy by prejudice or misunderstanding for such an impression to be given to the church by ill advised or hasty expressions of condemnation before the facts were all in. (3) Even admitting that your position is correct I would still hesitate to write in such a tone to one of the men under your direction lest I might injure your standing with your working force.

I may add that at the meeting of our Alaska Presbytery it was stated on the floor that your representative had openly criticised in a public place not only myself as General Missionary but also the Board of Home Missions in its work in Alaska.

I have been for twenty-one years in connection with the Home Mission work of Alaska. I am perfectly willing to leave to the judgement of the church at large the decision as to my worthiness to be in the position which I am holding. The work as now existing speaks for itself as to efficiency of management and execution. It would be ordinarily assumed that my experience in this work would qualify me to judge and express a judgement as to matters affecting the policy of the future of that work. I have had in the past and have today no other desire or motive than that of working for the extension of Christ's kingdom in Alaska.

My judgement now is that in view of all that has transpired it is not advisable that field workers of another agency of the church enter Alaska at this time.

Very sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

OCT 31 1917

See Reverse Side For Reply.

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERKHEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORKTERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

October 22, 1917

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,

156 5th Avenue, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Dixon:

I am back at my desk and getting under the pile of correspondence which has accumulated. It will be some time before I can reach the report of my summer itinerary. Matters of immediate necessity I will take up in order.

I am enclosing with this letter copies of two reports adopted by the Presbytery of Yukon in re the entrance of the Sabbath School Board into Alaska.

Also, two letters, under dates August 14th and October 3d, from Mr. J.M. Somerndike with my reply to the same.

These letters I would like to have again for my files after you have finished with them. I presume that Mr. McAfee will be interested in reading them as well as my reply and the reports of the Presbytery inasmuch as the matter was discussed at Dallas between him and Mr. Waggoner.

I believe that all that is to be said is included in the enclosed correspondence and reports. I am not pleased with the spirit of criticism and assumption which characterizes the methods of Mr. Somerndike. Because of his attitude and the work done so far by Dr. Forbes I now am opposed to the entry of a field worker from the Sabbath School Board into Alaska. I formerly believed that a work could be done, under the conditions which I outlined, by such an agent. For several reasons I am confident that Dr. Forbes will not do such a work as I indicated. He is an old man and physically unable for the task which I outlined.

I am much pleased to learn that Dr. Marquis has accepted the position of Secretary and also that you are to be with the Board, together with Mr. McAfee, until the next Assembly.

Cordially yours,

James H. Condit

I.

November 1, 1917.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,

Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:-

I have received your letters of October the twenty-second, and the Rev. C. H. Brown will be commissioned to take Mr. McBride's place after he leaves Anchorage. We concur in your recommendation that Mr. McBride shall be allowed to leave Anchorage in time to reach his home in Michigan by Christmas.

I have read all of the correspondence which you have sent me concerning Dr. Forbes. It seems to me that you have much the better part of the argument with Mr. Somerndike, and when we have a conference I will express my opinion that the work done by Dr. Forbes at Nenana was not only unnecessary but unwarranted, and that from that kind of Sunday School evangelization we would desire to be delivered. Yet ecclesiastical disputes seldom get anywhere and usually leave more or less of bitterness. I therefore hope that in some way Dr. Forbes' work and itinerary can be so determined as that it will be cooperative with yours. I have declined to take up the matter with the Sunday School Board until the Yukon and Alaska Presbyteries had acted upon the matter. Doubtless in due season we shall hear from the Alaska Presbytery. Thus far nothing has come to hand. I will return the letters of Mr. Somerndike to yourself later.

And with best wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work

Sabbath-School and Missionary Department

REV. ALEXANDER HENRY, D.D., SECRETARY
M. S. COLLINGWOOD, TREASURER
J. M. SOMERNDIKE, SUPT. OF MISSIONS
WITHERSPOON BUILDING, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

PLEASE RETURN TO
JAMES H. CONDIT
JUNEAU, ALASKA

November 2, 1917.

Rev. J. H. Condit, D. D.,

Juneau,

Alaska.

My dear Doctor Condit:-

Your letter of October 20th is at hand. Passing over the work which Dr. Forbes did at Nenana, and which I am sure was done with the best of motives, the question is still before us as to whether our Board is justified in expending any of its funds for the support of a worker in Alaska - a question which we thought was answered by the replies which you and other Alaska missionaries gave to our letter of a year ago when your judgement was asked.

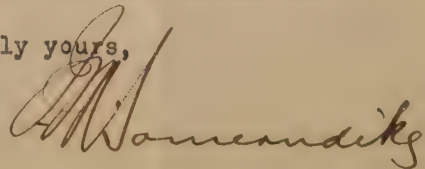
The aspect of this whole matter which has pained me deeply is the attitude which you assumed toward Dr. Forbes and his mission in Alaska, before you had an opportunity to confer together and agree upon the special phases of work for which you and he would become respectively responsible. Even if there were a doubt in your mind regarding the wisdom of our entrance into the Alaska field, it would seem to us that we might reasonably expect the representatives of another Board of our own Church, ^{by} whom the most whole-hearted cooperation should be extended, to endeavor by friendly counsel and conference, to lend every aid possible, in order that the experiment (for such it is, in the mind of our Board) might be fully tested. Then if it seemed unwise to continue the work, and if the conditions were found to be unfavorable to the successful prosecution of the functions of our Board as one of the Church's missionary agencies, we would all have felt perfectly satisfied with the result. But without waiting for an opportunity to confer with Dr. Forbes, and in insisting that his services were not needed, besides the course you have pursued in an-

tagonizing the work, bringing presbyterial action to bear upon the case, has in my judgement been exceedingly unbecoming and unjustifiable. I am not passing judgement upon your administration of the Alaska work, but I must in all frankness confront the facts as stated above.

Dr. Forbes has exhibited the spirit of true cooperation in acceding to your request that he spend the winter in an endeavor to revive and maintain the work at Ruby and Iditerod - fields which you do not consider sufficiently promising to warrant the placing of home mission pastors in charge. We are glad that he can be of assistance in this manner, and we hope that his labors at both points will be followed with encouraging results. But where do you plan that he shall go when he feels that his work in these fields is completed? So far as I can see it will be useless for him to continue any efforts to do the work of a Sabbath-school Missionary in Alaska if he is obliged to contend with an organized opposition from those of our own household of faith. Under such conditions the work could not succeed and such an exhibition of family infelicity would react against all Presbyterian work in Alaska, besides giving occasion for unfavorable comment by the representatives of the other denominations. For the sake of the Kingdom's interests this must be avoided. Rather would we withdraw from the field than to allow ourselves to be the occasion of a family disturbance which would prevent our Church from presenting a united front in its missionary endeavors. I am afraid, however, that it would not reflect creditably upon the home mission representatives, whose attitude might make it necessary for us to save the situation by taking such action.

I feel that nothing will be gained by a further discussion of the matter in this manner as you seem to be quite determined that our Board shall have no part in the Alaska work. The protests of the two Alaska presbyteries will be given due consideration, and our decision concerning the continuance of Dr. Forbes beyond the year for which he was appointed will be duly announced.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. L. Hammond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

11.30.17 am.

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORKTERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

November 16th, 1917

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,

156 5th Avenue, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Dixon:

I have your letter of November 1st, with its reference to the controversey with the Board of Sunday School Work.

While I am now of the opinion that it is not desirable that the latter Board send field representatives into Alaska, yet, on the other hand, should the Board of Sunday School Work continue to insist that Dr. Forbes shall continue in Alaska, I am very willing to do what I can to co-operate with him in his work. This will be the more difficult because Dr. Forbes is physically unable to accomplish the mission which we here in Alaska supposed the representative of that Board would undertake.

I am enclosing a recent letter from Mr. Somerndike, with copy of my reply, and have requested that the letter be returned to my files.

Cordially yours,

James H. Condit

2. 1917
Copy

PLEASE RETURN TO
JAMES H. CONDIT
JUNEAU, ALASKA.

November 16th, 1917

Mr. J. Somerndike,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Somerndike:

Your letter of the 2nd November is before me.

As I understand it, the issue which you now raise is, that opportunity for conference was not given. In reply, I would suggest that no adequate opportunity for such conference with me was given. Had you, from Philadelphia, or Dr. Forbes, from Seattle, intimated to me that you had determined to send a man to Alaska, and that he would be in Juneau with a view to conference, I would have been here to meet him. But, as I have already indicated, I knew nothing of your plans until two days before the arrival of Dr. Forbes in Juneau. It was impossible for me at that late date to change my own program in order to be in Juneau when he arrived.

Also, it would seem, that if you had been desirous of making your plans for Alaska harmonize with the work of the Home Mission Board, you would have conferred with the New York office of our Board before determining upon a definite action. Had you so done you would have learned of our plans for the Kenana field.

And, again, it is difficult, as I have before said, to harmonize the fact of your desire for conference as to Dr. Forbes' movements with the farther fact that he had received his definite marching orders before he left Seattle, which were that he should proceed at once to Nenana.

I am compelled to maintain that the failure for conference can not be properly charged to this end of the line.

Also, I must again affirm that the opposition of myself and of the Presbyteries is not to the entrance of the Sabbath School Board into Alaska.

to do the specific work of that agency, or that which we understood would be the work of your representative here, but to the policy of duplication of effort along the same line by two administrations of the same church. This we in Alaska believe is a mistaken policy which can only result in confusion and interference as the Nenana experience so well illustrates.

This judgment, contrary to your representation, is not my own individual opinion, but that of the workers in Alaska without exception, in so far as I have been able to determine. It will be easily possible for you to determine this by farther correspondence with each of the men whom you addressed a year ago.

I may add that in all probability the first intimation which we here in Alaska had that the coming of a second agency of our church to accomplish the identical mission of the Home Mission Board was likely to produce undesirable results was found in the fact that your representative manifested a spirit of criticism, not only of myself, but also of other workers here, in his remarks in Skagway as he was on his way to the interior of Alaska. This you may confirm by writing to Mr. Andrew Stevenson, of Skagway, one of the men whom you consulted a year ago.

In conclusion, and in the very best possible spirit, I venture to say, first, that the opinions of the men now on the Alaska field is worthy of consideration, and, secondly, that we are of the opinion, now, that in view of all that has occurred it is not advisable that your field workers enter the Alaska field at this time. It is our judgment that this is in the interest of the Kingdom. We are not at all apprehensive that our attitude, properly understood and explained, "will not reflect creditably upon the Home Mission representatives", but rather the opposite.

I regret, exceedingly, that the present condition has arisen. But, I am not willing to admit, that I alone, or the Home Mission workers in Alaska alone, are responsible for the same. As you well say, we are all the representatives of the household of faith, equally desirous for the upbuilding of the Kingdom, and equally liable to error in judgment and conduct. And, as members of the household in Alaska and experienced with the field here and its specific needs, our best judgment is as above.

Very sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

M

November 30, 1917.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,

Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:-

I have your letter of November the sixteenth with its enclosures, which I have read. I think your reply to Mr. Somerndike's letter is a complete answer. I have heard nothing further from Philadelphia concerning the matter, and hope I am not wrong in feeling that I am entirely willing to wait for their convenience.

Will you kindly allow me to retain the letters until after the conference, if it is proposed to hold one, between the Sunday-School Board and ourselves? Then I will return these letters to you.

Hoping that you had a very pleasant Thanksgiving at home and with hearty good wishes I am,

Cordially yours,

Presbyterian Sabbath School Missions

SYNODS OF OREGON & WASHINGTON

REV. W. O. FORBES, D. D., DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

1007 EAST MARION

SEATTLE, WASH.



Dec. 18th, 1917.

Rev. J. H. Condit, D.D.
Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:

You will be glad to know I'm sure, that I am now ready to recommend to the Sunday-school Board the withdrawal of our missionary efforts in Alaska, in accordance with your expressed wishes.

I cannot tell you how sorry I am for the necessity of taking this step, for I had so set my heart on clasping hands with you - in a friendly, forward, evangelistic effort to take the gospel to every home in Alaska. We saw a great work to do up there - albeit the hardest task the great Northland presented; we wanted to do the work and were willing to pay the price; we had a lot of interested friends that were ready to put up the money for it whatever the cost; yet it would be folly, it seems to me, for us to proceed further without your hearty good-will, your sympathetic prayers, and your helpful, brotherly co-operation - all of which was pledged to us, but none of which is now apparant.

Problems of adjustment I anticipated, of course, but I felt that there was ^{sure} ~~statesmanship~~ enough represented in our combined forces to solve all problems that might arise; and I still think so, if we had been given a chance to work it out, but your plan of attack left no room for that - initiated as it was before you left Juneau for Nenana, and affording no opportunity for defense before the Presbyteries, it was as effectual as it was unexpected and leaves us nothing to do but to bow to the inevitable. You have carried it to a successful conclusion I must admit, and whatever glory there is in it certainly belongs to you - and the responsibility also that goes with it. My heart is sick, but I cannot see the good of contending for a privilege to which our great Sunday-school deserves the warmest welcome; hence my recommendation.

Board

It will be hard for Dr. Forbes to come out now, possibly not till the break-up in the Spring, but he is strong and hardy and, if any one else can get out he will probably make a try as soon as he gets the word, but we will have to leave that with him to work out in his own way.

With best wishes for your own work, and with the compliments of the season, I am

Yours sincerely,

DEC 28 1917 12/29/17

Presbyterian Sabbath School Missions

SYNODS OF OREGON & WASHINGTON

REV. W. O. FORBES, D. D., DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

1007 EAST MARION

SEATTLE, WASH.

Dec 22 '17

My dear Dr. Dixon:-

I am enclosing copy
of my letter to Dr. Corbett which is
for your information and is
self-explanatory.

Some of the most prominent
missionaries in Alaska have
begged me not to do this, but
in the face of Presbyterian action
there is nothing left for us to
do so we want to be loyal.

The same action would have
not been taken had I had an oppor-
tunity to state our case, but Dr. Corbett had
it all worked up before our mission.

any had a chance to make good.

Yours sincerely,
W. O. Forbes

JAN 22 1918
PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

January 8th, 1918

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue,
N.Y.

My dear Dr. Dixon:

I am herewith enclosing a copy of a letter recently received from the Rev. W.O. Forbes, D.D., Superintendent of Sabbath School Work in the Synods of Washington and Oregon, together with a copy of my reply to the same.

It would seem that the troublesome conflict between our Boards, relative to the work in Alaska, is, or is about to be, finally adjusted by the withdrawal of the former from the field. This is entirely in accord with my own judgement and I hope may be accomplished without farther friction and with the least possible attendant unpleasant results. I very much regret the whole affair but am thoroughly convinced that the conditions, as developed, entirely justified, as well as demanded, the vigorous protest and action of the Alaska Presbyteries. And we will hope and pray that the incident is righteously closed.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit.

JAN 22 1917

Copy

Presbyterian Sabbath School Missions
Synods of Oregon and Washington
Rev. W.O. Forbes, D.D., District Superintendent
1007 East Marion
Seattle, Washington

Dec. 18th, 1917

Rev. J.H. Condit, D.D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:-

You will be glad to know, I'm sure, that I am now ready to recommend to the Sunday-school Board the withdrawal of our missionary efforts in Alaska, agreeable to your expressed wishes.

I cannot tell you how sorry I am for the necessity of taking this step, for I have so set my heart on clasping hands with you in a friendly, forward effort to take the gospel to every home in Alaska. We saw a great work for us to do up there--albeit the hardest task the Great Northland presented; we wanted earnestly to do the work and were willing to pay the price; we had a lot of interested friends that were ready to put up the money--whatever the cost; yet it would be folly to proceed further without your hearty good-will; your sympathetic interest and prayers; and your helpful, brotherly co-operation--all of which we thought we had, but none of which seems now apparent.

Problems of adjustment I expected, of course, but I felt that there was statesmanship enough represented in our combined forces to solve all problems that might thus arise; and I still think there was, if a chance had been given to work it out; but your plan of attack left no room for that--initiated as it was before leaving Juneau for Nenana, and affording us no opportunity to state our cause to the Presbyteries. It has proven as effectual as it was unexpected to us, and leaves us nothing to do but to bow to the inevitable. You have indeed carried your plans to a successful issue I must admit, and whatever of glory there is in it certainly belongs to you--and the responsibility also that goes with it, for we must be loyal to the powers that be. My heart is sick, but I cannot see the good of contending for the privilege to which the great Sunday-school Board deserves the warmest welcome--hence my recommendation.

It will be hard for Dr. Forbes to come out now, possibly not till the break-up in the spring; but he is strong and hardy, and if any one else can get out he will probably make a try as soon as he gets the word, but we will have to leave that with him to work out in his own way.

With best wishes for you in your own work and with the compliments of the season, I am

Yours sincerely,

(signed) W.O. Forbes.

I

December 29, 1917.

Rev. W. O. Forbes, D.D.,
1007 East Marion,
Seattle, Wash.

My dear Dr. Forbes:-

I have your letter of December the twenty-second, enclosing a copy of your letter to Dr. Condit. Whether you and the Sunday School Board have acted wisely in the first instance in sending Dr. Forbes into Alaska, and whether now it is the best thing to bring him out and discontinue your proposed work there, I do not know. But this I do know, that it is a matter of regret to me that you and Dr. Condit representing the two Boards interested have not been able to come to an understanding and an agreement which would not only be mutually satisfactory but also work out for the very best interests of our Presbyterian Church. This Board and the Sunday School Board have always cooperated and will cooperate as long as they are in existence. We are simply servants of one Master and are both actuated by loyalty to that Master and cordial friendship for each other.

Wishing you a Happy New Year, I am,

Cordially yours,

JAN 16 1918
*Rec'd by
Rev. Mr. Bide
in the office*

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

ACCOUNTING BLANK
AND
ESTIMATE OF AID

Synod of Washington

Presbytery of Yukon

The General Assembly of 1914 (Minutes, Page 134, Section III, Article 2) took the following action, viz.:

“Each Presbytery shall give to the Board a faithful accounting of the use of funds appropriated, and in case of any misunderstanding or complaint, the Board shall use its own discretion, subject to the review of the Assembly’s Standing Committee on Home Missions.”

The Board of Home Missions offers to the Presbyteries the form herewith submitted as a help towards compliance with the above direction of the General Assembly. In order that this accounting may be of benefit to the Presbytery when the Board is determining the appropriation to the Presbyteries for the coming year, it is necessary that it should be in the hands of the Board *not later than April 20th*. Appropriations to Presbyteries are made by the Board at its meeting, May 10, 1917.

Kindly place in separate groups the fields to be aided according to the character of the work to be done, such as American, German, Indian, Mexican, lumber camps, specialized country church work, lay community work, surveys and immigrant work.

Accounting Blank for the Year Ending March 31st, 1917

Estimate of Aid Needed from July 1st, 1917 to June 30th, 1918

List of Churches and Stations aided during the whole or any part of the year from April 1st, 1916 to April 1st, 1917	Total Membership	Was an Every-Member Canvass Made during year 1916-1917?	Amount Paid during year ending, March 31st, 1917		Sabbath Services Average Attendance		Prayer Meeting Average Attendance	Number Received during year ending March 31st, 1917		Baptisms		Amount Pledged for the year beginning July 1st, 1917		How much does the Presbytery estimate the need for the coming year of each Church and station seeking aid	REMARKS ON THIS AND LAST PAGE AS TO
			Pastor's Support	Benevolence	A. M.	P. M.		On Examination	By Certificate	Infants	Adults	Pastor's Support	Benevolence		
Fairbanks	34		840	162				9	3	2	8	840	860	Travelling expenses to creeps should be considered. Travelling expenses raised in field. Money needed to move church. A rearrangement of field desired.	
Cordova & stations	18			1				5	9				1700		
Matanuska & stations													1700		
Barrow															
Ukpeavik	281			24				54					1700	for medical supplies etc. (See Higher Census) Mr. Brown takes Mr. Mc Bride's place while the latter is in the States. This \$850 is provided for in the appropriation made for the Matanuska work.	
Knuak	56			1				6					600		
Anchorage	51			Amount received too late for crediting				20	31				1700		
Anchorage													850		
Kenana													1700	moving expenses of R.J. Liven.	
													721.52		
													11 531		

N.B. Blankos should be furnished this Committee by Jan 1st of each year in order that estimates may be obtained from the field

James L. Mc Bride
Chairman of Home Mission Committee

JAN 22 1918

Copy

January 6th, 1918

Rev. W.O. Forbes, D.D.,

Seattle, Washington.

My dear Dr. Forbes:

Your letter of the 18th announcing that you would recommend the withdrawal of the Sunday School Board from Alaska, is at hand.

In my judgement this step is wise and in line with the interest of the cause in Alaska. Under the plan which I and others had suggested I feel that there was a work for the Sunday-school missionary here. Under the plan as carried out at Kamana there was simply a reduplication of missionary effort to accomplish the identical end. To my mind the Church at large was not justified in expending its funds for such reduplication.

I must insist that I have had no other purpose in view but the good of the cause. If the accomplishment of that purpose brings any "glory" with it, so let it be. As far as my share of the responsibility in the matter is concerned I very willingly accept the same. I would not have desired the responsibility of failing to protest against a plan which was in the nature of things destined to produce confusion and friction.

And I must also insist that my judgement in the matter was the judgement of all the missionaries in Alaska as well as of our Board in New York. Had your cause been sustained by sound principles my one voice would not have prevented the development of the same.

If Dr. Forbes desires to come out over the trail he can do so without any difficulty by means of the regular stage service. He can travel in comfort and make better time than by boat, in summer.

In closing I wish to say that if conditions in Alaska become such as to warrant the work of the Sunday-school Board along the lines of its customary work elsewhere I will be glad to be the first to welcome its representatives. That condition does not at present exist.

I very cordially reciprocate your good wishes for the work in behalf of the excellent service you are rendering and render, as in the past

Cordially your friend,

James H. Condit

1-9-77

I

April 17, 1918.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,

Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:-

I think I never wrote a letter to Alaska with a heavier heart than I am about to do. It relates to the appropriation for the coming year. The Board has been unable to give anything more than sympathetic consideration to the appeal of the missionaries for increased salaries. They are unable to put their sympathy into any substantial form; the reverse is the case. While the churches made a notable advance in their offerings to the Board last year, yet the Board ended the fiscal year with a debt of \$120,000. upon last year's work. When to this sum is added the \$151,000. debt with which we began the fiscal year, it appears that the indebtedness as of April the first is over \$270,000.

The best estimate that the Treasurer's office was able to make of the income for the coming year compelled the Board to reduce the budget as prepared by the officers of the Board by \$100,000. The officers of the Board had already, in their judgment, cut to the very quick in every department of our home mission responsibility. The further reduction of \$100,000. required by the Board brought us to the verge of distress.

By reason of the return to the old-time period for the missionary year running from April to April, the Board is dividing the appropriation into two parts. First, a sum to cover the wants which have already been made by the Board and which run up to the thirtieth of June. Second, an appropriation for nine months running from July first, 1918, to March thirty-first, 1919. The Treasurer's office estimates that for the Presbytery of Alaska probably \$4,050. will be needed to meet

Dr. Condit---2

April 17, 1918.

obligations becoming due and payable in the three months of April, May and June.

For the remaining nine months, the appropriation has been made as follows:-

	<u>9 mos. from 7/1/18</u>
Missionaries' Salaries	\$ 8,575.
Dr. Condit's Salary & Expenses	750.
Boat Expenses & Repairs	600.
Perry Items	
Rent - Manse at Ketchikan	225.
" - Mission "	75.
Gasoline	<u>125.</u>
Total - - - - -	\$10,350.

Very naturally, you and the Home Mission Committee will inquire how the Board has reached its conclusion as to the appropriation for the nine months. In reply, I would say that there is nothing included in this for interpreters. The Board believes in the principle of teaching and requiring both Indian and white people to do the very best that they can in providing for the means of grace; therefore, we look to the Indians to raise all the money necessary for interpreters. Is it too much to hope that the Indians will take care of the interpreters' salaries from the first of April, and thereby release just that much to the Presbytery for the remaining nine months of the year?

Second, we will look to the congregations, white and Indian, to do something towards the minister's salary. The minister's salary ought not to be reduced a penny, but the congregation being fully instructed as to the reason for the reduction in the appropriation must be persuaded to do all that they can to make up the deficiency.

Third, the Board will expect the congregations, white and Indian, either to do the work or to raise the money necessary to make all repairs. We

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April 17, 1918.

would expect this to be done with regard to the Mission House rented by the Board at Ketchikan. If Mr. Marsden is to be assigned to Ketchikan, it is hoped that he will so present this matter to the people that they will respond.

Fourth, no appropriation is made for the continuance of the deaconess in Mr. Falconer's home and field beyond the thirtieth of June.

Fifth, it is impossible at present for the Board to do anything towards the new boat for Kake, or for the manse at Wrangell. As you know, Dr. Young has for several years given his time and effort to the raising of money for new work in Alaska. The Board has been compelled to say to him that it can not consent to this plan for the coming year and that he must devote all of his endeavor to the raising of money for the regular budget for Alaska and Yukon.

This is all the letter that I can summon courage to write today. There are some unanswered letters, but I seek your permission to wait.

Cordially yours,

1- H.M. B

I

April 17, 1918.

Rev. George G. Bruce,

Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Brother:-

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I have just sent to Dr. Condit. I want to assure you also of the sincere sympathy of all the officers of the Board with our brethren in Alaska. We know that the appropriation will come to them with the crushing force of a hard blow. Would that we could spare them this! We are taught by the Church that there is a blessing somewhere in every trial. I wonder where the blessing is in this trial which comes to our brethren in Alaska! I pray that the Master Himself may make the path of duty so clear both for your Committee and for the missionaries and all your people that we will not have to wait until the close of the year to find out that there was a blessing in it after all.

Cordially yours,

Enc.-

(Duplicate)

I

June 13, 1918.

Mr. John M. Somerndike,
Board of Publication & S.S. Work,
Witherspoon Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Somerndike:-

Dr. S. Hall Young has sent me your letter to him dated June the seventh in reply to his letter of June the fifth to you. First of all, let me acknowledge that you have not erred in taking advantage of Dr. Young's statement that the difficulty in Alaska was one between Dr. Condit and Dr. Forbes. Whatever may have been the personal influence and activity of Dr. Condit in the matter, the act was the act of the two Presbyteries. You have clearly recognized this in your letter to Dr. Young.

I note the following sentence in your letter to Dr. Young:

"I laid the whole matter before Dr. Dixon some months ago, but no action was taken."

I am sure that you are laboring under a misapprehension. Upon referring to our correspondence, you will discover that I expressed the heartiest sympathy with and readiness to cooperate with the Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work in any work which they might plan to do in Alaska. I think it not unlikely that this hearty expression of sympathy and cooperation contributed something towards the appointment by your Board of Dr. Forbes. It was and is a matter of regret to me that he could not have continued in the service to which he had been commissioned. That which estopped us is the power that estopped the Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work, namely,

(over)

J.M.Somerndike-----2

June 13, 1910.

Presbyterial authority. You say in your letter to Dr. Young: "Of course we bowed to the presbyterial authority". We also bowed.

We are in sincere sympathy with Dr. Young's desire and endeavor to open up the way for the return of your Board to Alaska, and hope he will succeed in bringing it about.

Very sincerely yours,

JUN 15 1918

Presbyterian Sabbath-School Missions

P

REV. ALEXANDER HENRY, D.D., SECRETARY

M. S. COLLINGWOOD, TREASURER

J. M. SOMERNDIKE, SUPT. OF MISSIONS

WITHERSPOON BUILDING, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

June 14, 1918.

Rev. John Dixon, D. D.,

156 Fifth Avenue,

New York City, N.Y.

My dear Doctor Dixon:-

Your letter of June 13th is at hand, for which I thank you. I shall be very glad indeed if Dr. Young can use his influence with the Alaska Presbyteries in such a way as will lead to action that will enable our Board to do missionary work in that field. However, I have my doubts about anything very effective being accomplished under the present administration of the Home Mission Board's work in Alaska. The spirit shown by Dr. Condit in his correspondence with us, and in his attitude toward Dr. Forbes, would seem to me to make it almost impossible for anyone to cooperate with him in an effective way.

Very sincerely yours,

J. M. Somerndike

